



Strategies for Optimizing PPE Supplies during Shortages

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused an increased need for personal protective equipment (PPE), resulting in PPE shortages. This has posed a tremendous challenge to the U.S. healthcare system. Healthcare facilities are having difficulty accessing the needed PPE and are having to identify alternate ways to provide patient care.

[CDC's strategies to optimize personal protective equipment \(PPE\)](#) is a quick reference that summarizes CDC's strategies to optimize PPE supplies in healthcare settings and provides links to CDC's guidance documents on optimizing supplies. These strategies offer a continuum of options using the framework of surge capacity when PPE supplies are stressed, running low, or absent. When using these strategies, healthcare facilities should:

- Consider these options and **implement them sequentially**
- Understand their current PPE inventory, supply chain, and [utilization rate](#)
- Train healthcare personnel on PPE use and have them demonstrate competency with putting on and taking off any PPE ensemble that is used to perform job responsibilities
- Once PPE availability returns to normal, promptly resume conventional practices

Please visit [Summary for Healthcare Facilities: Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of PPE during Shortages | CDC](#) for more information.

The Emergency Risk Communication Branch in the Division of Emergency Operations, Center for Preparedness and Response is responsible for the management of all COCA Products.

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