
NEWS RELEASE

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The Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center Launches Statewide Drive for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

(ORLANDO, FLA.) – Due to a nationwide shortage, emergency healthcare workers are going to work every day without the proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needed to guard themselves from exposure to SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. This means that our EMTs, paramedics, nurses and physicians – along with other first responders and medical personnel on the front lines – are risking their lives to care for patients.

As manufacturers race to produce PPE, the general public can help front line providers in the short-term by donating their own PPE supplies that are otherwise sitting in storage due to temporary business closures.

In effort to connect donors with front line providers in need, the Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center (EMLRC), which houses the Florida College of Emergency Physicians (FCEP) and the Florida Association of EMS Medical Directors (FAEMSMD), is launching a Statewide PPE Drive.

“The EMLRC already exists to provide lifesaving education, resources and support to Florida’s emergency medicine community,” said Melissa Keahey, Director of Meetings & Events and the point person for this project. “Considering our mission, membership organizations and existing partnerships with various stakeholders across the state, it just made sense for us to move full-speed ahead with a PPE drive.”

The EMLRC will be accepting medical-grade PPE such as N95 respiratory masks and chemical-handling gloves, along with cleaning items such as bleach and hand sanitizer. No handmade face masks or opened packages will be accepted. Find the wish list and donation form online at fcep.org/ppe.

To help spread the word, the EMLRC is asking for community partner organizations to join its “PPE network.” Other industries such as building and construction require certain types of PPE,

and professional associations catering to those industries have hundreds of members – whether organizations or individuals – that could be sitting on stockpiles. Help us rally your members for a great cause! The Florida Society of Association Executives (FSAE) and Donate Smarter have already agreed to join our PPE network.

Find more information online at fcep.org/ppe and contact Melissa Keahey at mkeahey@emlrc.org if you are interested in joining our PPE network.

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About: The Emergency Medicine Learning & Resource Center (EMLRC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing emergency care through education and advocacy. The Florida College of Emergency Physicians (FCEP) is a statewide medical specialty organization representing over 2,000 emergency physicians who care for more than 10 million patients in Florida's emergency departments every year. FCEP is a state chapter of the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). Learn more at fcep.org.