



MARYLAND SOCIETY OF ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEONS

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor
Office of the Governor
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Governor Hogan:

As healthcare and the entire country face the unprecedented and extraordinary impact that COVID-19 is having on our society, the Maryland Society of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons (MSOMS) urges that Maryland recognize oral and maxillofacial surgeons (OMSs) as critical first responders, and acknowledge that it is essential that OMSs have proper personal protective equipment (PPE), including N-95 masks. One of our primary goals as OMSs is to alleviate pain and infections and treat facial injuries which can be life threatening if left untreated.

As the Covid-19 pandemic crisis continues to escalate, OMSs will play a crucial role in treating these patients in private facilities and away from emergency rooms. This is vital to decrease an already overtaxed medical system and minimize patient exposure to the virus. However, in order to accomplish these objectives, our surgeons must have access to the proper PPE equipment, including N-95 masks. We are in close proximity to these patients and aerosols are generated, which puts us at high-risk for exposure to COVID-19. In fact, [CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in Healthcare Settings](#) recommends prioritizing respirators and AIIRs for aerosol-generating procedures.

We implore you to consider making OMSs critical first responders and allowing us immediate access to these masks as they become available. With these important protective devices, we can simultaneously provide essential care to patients in need and help stem the spread of COVID-19. I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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cc: Senator William C. Ferguson, President
Hon. Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker
Robert R. Neall, Secretary of Health
Frances B. Phillips, Deputy Secretary of Public Health

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