



560 W. Lake St. 312.440.4300  
Sixth Floor Fax: 312.440.0559  
Chicago, IL USA Toll-free: 888.243.3368  
60661-6600 agd.org

April 23, 2020

Mr. Rob Glenn  
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)  
500 C. Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Dear Mr. Glenn:

The Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) represents 39,000 general dentists who provide the full range of dental care to patients across the country. The purpose of this letter is to ask that the AGD be actively involved in ongoing development and implementation of FEMA personal protective equipment (PPE) allocation policies as America reopens.

In many states, AGD members are providing emergency services only. They've played a crucial role in keeping patients out of hospital emergency rooms during the COVID-19 pandemic. General dentists put themselves and their staff at some risk doing if they do not have access to N95 or equivalent masks as aerosols are routinely generated during the delivery of dental care.

According to the CDC guidelines, the level of risk to dental health care providers using N95 or equivalent masks and goggles or face shields is low. The level of risk using a surgical mask and goggles or face shield is moderate.

AGD members are eager to get back to work providing non-emergency oral health care. However, they are also extremely concerned about lack of access to PPE for themselves and their staff as states allocate supplies of N95 and N95-equivalent masks. It is not clear that a dental practice can comply with CDC guidelines or OSHA "general duty" to protect employees from a known risk without these masks. To date, responses from local state health officials have not been encouraging in the ability to acquire the needed PPE.

As all states move toward recovery in various stages, we have certain states that are resuming dental practice now and during the next week or two. It is imperative that these practices are considered high priority due to the attendant risk factors associated with the practice of dentistry. Dentists are front-line health care workers and must have access to the highest level of PPE.

We urge FEMA's Local Emergency Management officials to recognize dental care as a justifiable need and ask the local FEMA representative to prioritize general dentist's request for available appropriate PPE now and when recovery begins.

Together we can mitigate the immediate challenges in the PPE supply chain and avoid unintended long-term consequences for dentists, staff, and their patients seeking care. We look forward to hearing from you at [advocacy@agd.org](mailto:advocacy@agd.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Connie L. White, DDS, FAGD'.

Connie L. White, DDS, FAGD, AGD President