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BRIEF19

A daily review of covid-19 research and policy.

This document features us the GetUsPPE.org's weekly briefing in an edited and condensed format for brief19.com.

How will reopening states affect healthcare workers?

About [half of states](#) have begun to reopen, allowing shops, movie theaters, and even, in [Georgia's](#) case, salons and bowling alleys to welcome customers. The [majority](#) of Americans would rather extend stay-at-home orders, though, and healthcare providers agree with them. In one striking [scene](#), so-called “anti-lockdown protestors” in Providence, Rhode Island, were met by a line of medical workers standing in scrubs on the statehouse steps, supporting the governor’s decision to keep the state closed.

Reopening states puts healthcare workers in danger, and not only because it will likely cause a more severe second [surge](#) of infections. Surveys we conducted at [GetUsPPE](#) show that healthcare facilities are still facing extreme [shortages](#) of protective equipment and are struggling to afford the skyrocketing prices of PPE. Now, with businesses reopening, they will have even more competition.

And Some Good News

PPE will be in demand across industries. Georgia’s new state safety [guidelines](#), for example, require salons, spas, and barber shops to “make use of face shields, gloves, disposable or re-washable capes, smocks, neck strips, etc.”

This is equipment that frontline medical workers desperately need. It is already so scarce that the CDC has created a burn rate [calculator](#) to help healthcare facilities determine when they will run out of their essential supply. Reopening businesses is likely to make the PPE shortage even more dire for healthcare workers.



The Masks for Docs MI Team, just after receiving their second shipment of 12,000 face shields acquired by @DETneedsPPE in partnership with GetUsPPE

There were a few bright spots on the horizon this week. We saw more proof that social distancing [works](#), and, in a show of human [selflessness](#), over 4,000 people in 52 countries signed a statement that they are willing to be infected with coronavirus in order to speed up the creation of a vaccine.

GetUsPPE continued to ramp up efforts to get PPE to providers in need. Working with tireless regional teams, we have distributed nearly [317,000](#) units of PPE in the Bay Area to date, along with [133,500](#) units in Michigan and thousands more across the country. Meanwhile, some who support our cause are getting creative in their efforts to help, including a [writer](#) exchanging poems for donations to GetUsPPE.

International branches of GetUsPPE are springing up across continents, most recently in South Africa, Australia, and India. As we prepare for a potential second wave of COVID-19, volunteers around the world are getting ready to do something about it.



GetUsPPE.org
INDIA



GetUsPPE.org
AUSTRALIA

GetUsPPE is a movement founded by emergency physicians on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, it has become a leading national grassroots effort to equip front line healthcare workers with the protective equipment they need. Contact info@getusppe.org for more information on opportunities to volunteer and ways to contribute.

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Brief19 is a daily executive summary of covid-19-related medical research, news, and public policy. It was founded and created by frontline emergency medicine physicians with expertise in medical research critique, health policy, and public policy.