



Elara Caring Team Members,

Each day we continue to hear and read about the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. We appreciate all that each of you is doing to assure we meet and exceed the needs of our patients. We also understand that supply shortages continue across our nation for all healthcare providers. We are doing all that we can to obtain these necessary supplies. Some of the steps we have taken include:

-) Continue leveraging our existing supply partners
-) Reaching out to unconventional supply sources to secure N95 masks
-) Exploring manufacturing direct relationships

Despite all of the above actions, national supply shortages for all healthcare providers continue. Many of our employees have reached out to us offering to make homemade facemasks. Per the CDC, in times of **extreme shortages and when no facemasks are available**, it is permissible to use masks not evaluated or approved by NIOSH, or homemade masks, as a last resort. Therefore, this communication is to notify our staff that the use of non-NIOSH approved respirators and homemade face covers are acceptable to use **in the event no alternative higher-level options are available**. These facemasks should **not** be used when caring for positive COVID-19 patients. Care of positive COVID-19 patients require the use of an N95 or higher respiratory mask.

There have been many team members and volunteers that want to contribute in various ways. Some have raised their hand to use their sewing talents to make face masks for general use. For those team members that want to make homemade face masks, we have included a link below to aide you in the proper creation. If you choose to participate, please know we appreciate your commitment but will continue to secure N95 and regular procedural surgical masks. We appreciate all that Elara Caring team members are doing to beat this virus!

<https://www.providence.org/lp/100m-masks>