

Rep. Paul Evans,

Thank you for your work on the COVID-19 task force. As an Emergency Room physician, I ask your task force to please help my fellow frontline Healthcare workers. We need a larger and more robust supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) that is rated for airborne precautions. We are already reusing N-95 masks in an effort to conserve our supply. And frankly these masks aren't even ideal for our moderate to high risk patients.

We need more PAPRs and disposable gowns with hoods. If we are to rely on N-95 masks, we absolutely must have disposable goggles (that can fit over glasses if needed) to protect the exposed mucous membranes around our eyes. It is through these unprotected mucous membrane surfaces that the virus can enter into our system.

We need these better airborne rated PPE for our physicians, RN's, Respiratory Therapists and Medical Technicians. Our greeter RN's and Technicians must be given the best PPE possible. As Healthcare workers in the busiest ER in the state of Oregon, we are all in the high risk category for COVID-19. But our front staff / greeters are at the same risk as those of involved in sputum inducing procedures.

Finally, there is broad agreement amongst our physician and fellow frontline health care workers that we must do more testing. Despite our best efforts locally and regionally, it feels like we are flying blind. Testing would help us be more targeted in our approach to care both in and out of the hospital.

To sum up, we need:

1. More and better PPE that is rated for airborne precautions.
2. Widely available testing; we need more Tests.

We provide a critical back bone of care for our community. Please help us. It will help save lives across our community.

Sincerely, Trevor Phillips, MD

PS - I end with a Statement from the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) President William Jaquis, MD, FACEP 3/14/2020:

"Today we received word that two of our ACEP members are in critical condition as a result of COVID-19. An emergency physician in his 40s in the state of Washington presented with symptoms consistent with the COVID-19 syndrome. A 70-year-old member in New Jersey has tested positive for the virus. I am deeply saddened by this news, but not surprised. As emergency physicians, we know the risks of our calling. We stand united with our colleagues and our thoughts and prayers for a full and speedy recovery are with each of them and their families."