



Overview

- Texas, the U.S. and the world are experiencing shortages in personal protective equipment, laboratory supplies, and medical supplies. PPE can include masks, gowns, and gloves.
- Production is not meeting demand, and so these supplies must be actively conserved by all users until production increases sufficiently.
- DSHS, the Texas Division of Emergency Management, and the Governor’s Strike Force are actively working to acquire supplies through requests to the federal government and through third parties.
- When health care providers or facilities have depleted their stores, they may submit a request to the state through a State of Texas Assistance Request (STAR) by working with their local emergency management office or disaster district coordinator.
- Providers should include data about their critical need and details about their conservation strategies.
- Requests will be filled based on availability of supplies.

Guiding Principles for PPE Distribution

Life sustaining or Life saving	Protection of the health care delivery system	Protection of populations highly vulnerable to COVID-19 related mortality
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Provider Responsibilities Before Submitting a STAR for PPE

Demonstrated implementation of conservation strategies
Demonstrated life extension strategies for PPE
Deferment of non-medically necessary procedures
Exhaustion of options procuring supplies through vendors
Exhaustion of community assistance options, including coordination with local partners and facilities for reallocation within regions
Provision of data on how much PPE is used daily

Key Point

Certain lab and medical supplies are in a shortage internationally. State supplies are limited. PPE will be distributed to those with the most imminent need.

Guiding Principles for PPE Distribution

Level One	Level Two	Level Three
Hospitals or providers in contact with or treating confirmed COVID patients with potential for high loss of life. Facilities with an emerging or active outbreak.	Facilities and EMS personnel that may encounter a suspected case and interface with a vulnerable population.	Health care facilities, providers, and first responders that have general patient encounters and needs.



STATE OF TEXAS ASSISTANCE REQUEST (STAR)

The state of Texas uses WebEOC, an online crisis management system, to support resource request management.

- Local jurisdictions, regional entities, state agencies and organizations may request resources to support disaster response operations.
- The Texas SOC fulfills requests for assistance with available resources from Emergency Management Council members, available contracts or vendors, interstate or federal resources, as available.
- The chart below provides an overview of emergency management coordination in Texas.

STAR Overview	
State Level	Texas State Operations Center
District Level	Disaster District Emergency Operations Center
Local Level	City/County

How a Request becomes a STAR:

- Locals submit a State of Texas Assistance Request (STAR) for a need that is beyond their capacity to fill and then submit the STAR through WebEOC.
- STAR Requests are then received by the Disaster District Coordinator and either filled by the disaster district with resources available within the district or pushed to the State Operations Center (SOC).
- Once a STAR is received at the SOC level, it is assigned to the responsible agency to fill, or sourced through other state partners, or through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) national mutual aid system.
- If a Federal Disaster Declaration has been granted, the SOC will push any request the state cannot fulfill to FEMA or the lead federal agency for assistance in fulfilling.

For additional information please visit: <https://tdem.texas.gov/local-officials-resources/>