



*A Union of Professionals*

# COVID-19 Resources

## How to **Support Healthcare Workers** on the Frontlines of COVID-19 Outbreak

The AFT continues to support members and communities in the fight against COVID-19, including the millions of healthcare workers who are working hard to save lives during this pandemic. As one of the fastest-growing healthcare workers' unions in the country, the AFT continues to fight for access to the personal protective equipment (PPE) and vital resources our members and others need to safely fight the coronavirus. As healthcare professionals continue to risk self-exposure, they face the same economic and personal impact from continued social distancing as their neighbors—caring for their families, loss of household income, heightened anxiety, and finding food and other household goods. In these times, we are called as a community to be good neighbors and support these workers on the frontlines of protecting and treating our communities during this pandemic.

### **DOING OUR PART**

**Together, we must support healthcare workers as they lead the fight against COVID-19 and save lives. Here's how our community can do its part:**

- Fight for Personal Protective Equipment for Healthcare Workers
- Seek Medical Advice from Trusted Health Professionals
- Volunteer for Child Care
- Donate Blood

Find these resources and more at [www.aft.org/coronavirus](http://www.aft.org/coronavirus)

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The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of 1.7 million professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

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## Access to Personal Protective Equipment

Reports of inadequate personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline COVID-19 response workers, especially healthcare workers, continue to mount. AFT affiliates that represent nurses and health professionals indicate that the scarcity of this equipment has reached a critical stage in many areas. Healthcare workers are being forced to reuse N95 masks, use homemade masks or go completely unprotected, which has led to the emergence of the trending hashtag **#GetMePPE**. Hospitals, doctors, city public health departments, firefighters and county health departments, states and others are pleading with the public and business community to donate unused PPE now. School nurses with the Cleveland Teachers Union report collecting and donating unused medical supplies, including gloves and hand sanitizer, to health departments. **Participate in personal protective equipment and medical supply collection drives to support frontline caregivers during this pandemic.**

[getusppe.org/give/](https://getusppe.org/give/)

### HEALTHCARE WORKERS NEED PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT NOW

Sign and promote the AFT/PPE petition, which calls on the administration to act now. The petition calls on the Trump administration to make the production and distribution of PPE a top priority. President Trump has said he will not fully invoke the Defense Production Act until a "worst case scenario." We know that there are not enough ventilators needed to care for the patients in surge areas, and the situation will worsen as the number of cases continues to rise across the U.S.

[bit.ly/MoveOn-PPE](https://bit.ly/MoveOn-PPE)

## Seek Medical Advice from Your Doctor or Health Experts

Call your doctor before going into a hospital. Don't just show up. If you're worried (and have symptoms that would send you to the doctor during normal times), call your family doctor and ask for guidance. You can also call your emergency room for advice. The important thing is that you shouldn't just show up. Hospitals have plans for the arrival of potential coronavirus patients, to protect staff and other patients, so call ahead. Additionally, refrain from trusting or sharing any unvetted health information on social media. **Check websites like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization with vetted health experts for important COVID-19 facts and information.**

[bit.ly/CDC-CV19](https://bit.ly/CDC-CV19)

## Volunteer for Child Care

States are grappling with how to provide child care services to the children of first responders to allow them to continue to work. Some states are looking to public schools to fill that void. The goal is to enact child care subsidies or alternative methods of child care to all healthcare workers in the need of child care. Offering to take care of a healthcare worker's children takes a great weight off workers, allowing them to do their jobs. **Keep in mind: You should only volunteer if it's something you're able to handle. Also, make sure you're not sick or haven't been exposed to anyone who has been. The need to limit the spread of the virus is urgent, so it's best to do this only in situations where you believe it's healthy to do so. For tips and resources on child care, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website.**

[bit.ly/CDC-CV19-Children](https://bit.ly/CDC-CV19-Children)

## Donate Blood

Thousands of blood drives across the U.S. have been cancelled because of the coronavirus, leading organizations like the American Red Cross to call for more donations. **Consider donating blood to ensure that our country avoids a major blood shortage for patients in hospitals. Read more about the American Red Cross' efforts to ensure safety during the COVID-19 pandemic and to continue collecting vital blood donations.**

<https://rcblood.org/2xauREy>