
Supply Availability Related to Novel Coronavirus

Updated as of February 3, 2020

What is coronavirus?

The Novel Coronavirus, also known as the 2019-nCoV or just coronavirus, is a new respiratory illness first identified in China. Confirmed cases have been reported in several countries, including the United States. There is limited knowledge on how it is transmitted and currently there is no vaccine or commercially available diagnostic test. To-date the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published interim guidance to prevent or treat coronavirus. (See the Resources section below.) The CDC currently recommends healthcare personnel should use standard precautions which include the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) with proper hand and environmental hygiene.

How is McKesson responding?

We are committed to monitoring the situation, mitigating risks and providing timely information to our customers. We are working with industry partners like the Health Industry Distributors Association (HIDA) who is in regular contact with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to understand the product needs associated with suggested clinical protocols. McKesson takes our role as one of the nation's largest healthcare distributors seriously and we are doing all we can to ensure products are moving through the supply chain to customers in need.

How does this impact my supply?

As you know, there are significant constraints on the availability of many personal protective equipment (PPE) items as the number of documented cases of coronavirus grows and media coverage increases. Due to the combination of the large impact this illness has had in China, the Lunar New Year celebrations, travel restrictions now in place, and the normal illness season which is currently at its peak, product supply has been limited. We are now on allocation from several manufacturers for PPE. McKesson is doing all we can to procure more supplies from current and new sources, but we expect there will be shortages and disruptions in service. We recommend our customers consider this possibility when planning their usage.

We are also focused on managing the supply of our normal standard of care – which is for non-acute care. In order to provide as much product as possible to our current customers as they treat patients during the normal flu season, we have put our current customers on an allocation method in line with their recent usage.

Obviously, this is a very fluid situation and the details change daily. We appreciate your business and your understanding.

Resources

Please visit the following sites for regular updates on this situation.

- mms.mckesson.com/content/coronavirus-outbreak-update/
- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/guidance-hcp.html
- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/clinical-criteria.html
- www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control.html