JAY INSLEE
Governor

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**DIRECTIVE OF THE GOVERNOR**
**20-03**

April 2, 2020

To: Robert Ezelle, Director
Emergency Management Division, State Emergency Operations Center

Chris Liu, Director
Department of Enterprise Services

From: Governor Jay Inslee

Subject: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Purchasing

In accordance with the State of Emergency declared in all counties (Emergency Proclamation 20-05) on February 29, 2020, and building upon the Department of Enterprise Services Special Market Conditions Procurements/Purchases policy, I direct the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and the Department of Enterprise Services (DES) to procure all available personal protective equipment (PPE) identified as critical supplies with all possible speed, prioritizing credible suppliers that can most rapidly deliver these supplies to the state.

Due to the extraordinary threat of COVID-19, the enhanced need for PPE, and the challenges faced by healthcare providers, personnel serving populations at higher risk of transmission, including those providing care in state institutions, and other frontline workers in procuring adequate and appropriate PPE, the SEOC and DES are to continue to place orders with credible, established manufacturers, distributors, and importers as needed to fulfill urgent PPE need for at-risk essential infrastructure workers and to minimize the possibility that the State of Washington is forced to revert to crisis standards of care. DES is authorized to take appropriate risks in fulfilling these emergency procurement goals that would not otherwise be acceptable outside of this emergency. I also direct the SEOC to partner with DES, to consider whether additional testing or quality assessment of this equipment is required to ensure the safety of PPE users.

The state will assess the adequacy of PPE supplies in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic emergency on an ongoing basis to evaluate the continued application of this order.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership during this emergency.