



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.
- 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 exhausted options to obtain PPE or supplies, and are nearing depletion, 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

- Because the PPE supply coming to the state is more robust, DSHS removed the priorities for PPE distribution on April 28, 2020.
- If PPE supply begins to get low again, DSHS may re-implement the PPE Priority Guidelines on distribution and allocation.
- Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) providers will distribute across the health care sector as needs arise regardless of health care entity type.
- DSHS is asking that distribution prioritize response to health care facility outbreak responses as they occur, with a focus on long-term care.
- STARs may continue to be submitted by non-health care entity requestors with critical needs such as jails and funeral homes.

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

Per [Executive Order GA-15](#), licensed healthcare facilities performing elective procedures may not request PPE from a publicly funded source.



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/>