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## **Press Release**

For Immediate Release August 25, 2020 Contact: Amy Collier Carroll carrolla@stancounty.com

## **Stanislaus County Launches PPE Store for Safety of Medical Personnel**

Leveraging the County's purchasing power to buy Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in bulk will soon aid local qualifying medical service providers in the area. As a result of COVID-19 and the high demand for PPE, many suppliers have increased pricing of critical items making it difficult to secure necessary protection. Stanislaus PPE, a new online-only protective equipment store, is committed to offering PPE essentials to medical providers in Stanislaus County, at cost, to ensure the health and safety of our community.

Those in medical industries, from surgery center personnel to lab technicians to veterinary medicine practitioners and dentists will have the option of ordering items like protective gloves, N95 masks, gowns and face shields. Approved inventory will be determined by the provider's 30-day burn/usage rate.

"We are happy to be able to assist medical and dental businesses in Stanislaus County by providing them with PPE to help keep their doors open for business and their employees and patients safe," said Stanislaus County Board Chairwoman Kristin Olsen. "Our ability to purchase PPE in mass quantities and resell items at cost will be greatly beneficial to local healthcare personnel who have reported struggling to access these items."

PPE shortages have been broadly reported since the start of the COVID-19 public health crisis. Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services has received quantities of PPE from the National Stockpile and worked to procure additional PPE in order to help supply much needed face coverings and personal protective equipment to clinics, hospitals and various organizations in Stanislaus County. The need for these items has grown since the start of the emergency. The County is now offering these items for sale at the cost of procurement to qualified businesses.

Those in need of PPE will be asked to fill out a simple online form which will be reviewed and responded to within 48 hours based on the qualification of business submission and PPE quantities available. Payment for orders must be completed online prior to pick up at one of two Modesto locations; the Community Hospice Logistics Center or Stanislaus County Health Services Agency. Only one request per month can be made through the PPE site. Applicants will be asked for a copy of their business license and a business entity number issued by the California Secretary of State.

Stanislaus PPE is made possible through a partnership agreement with Community Hospice. PPE orders will begin online starting August 28, 2020. For more information or to place an order, visit <u>www.stanislausppe.com</u>.

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