



April 27, 2020

Mr. Frank Kim  
County Executive Officer  
County of Orange  
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd.  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Mr. Kim:

In my April 3, 2020 letter to you I conveyed OCEA's serious concerns about the lack of adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) provided to OCEA members assigned to County correctional facilities. Since that time, there have been over thirty (30) confirmed COVID-19 cases in the jails, yet the lack of adequate PPE has not significantly changed.

Sufficient time has elapsed for the County to secure and provide sufficient PPE. The Cal/OSHA Interim Workplace Safety Guidelines and CDC's Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers provide the County with clear workplace safety standards and direction.

Based on those guidelines, my April 3, 2020 letter included demands for N-95 respirators (or more protective powered air-purifying respirators (PAPRs)) and head-to-toe coverings. Some OCEA members have reported receiving N-95 masks, but their supply is limited and our members still remain vulnerable because the County has failed to provide optimized PPEs for healthcare workers performing high hazard tasks. Specific work groups remain particularly vulnerable, including correctional health staff, non-sworn correctional staff, and non-correctional staff assigned duties within correctional institutions.

OCEA therefore demands that the County provide the following optimal PPEs as appropriate in sufficient quantity and quality to protect vulnerable workers during the performance of their duties:

- Eye Protection
- Isolation Gowns
- Facemasks
- N-95 Respirators
- Powered Air-Purifying Respirators

Further, in light of the significant COVID-19 outbreak in the jails, OCEA demands that the County provide voluntary COVID-19 testing to all OCEA-represented employees working in correctional facilities.

The County has received considerable direct economic aid through the CARES Act funding to address COVID-related expenses. There is no more important COVID-related expense than providing for the safety and protection of the workers required to perform high hazard tasks that expose them to significant risks.

Mr. Frank Kim  
County Executive Officer  
County of Orange  
April 27, 2020  
Page Two

Please implement the foregoing immediately and contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

ORANGE COUNTY EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

/s/  
Charles G. Barfield  
General Manager

Copy to:  
Chairwoman Michelle Steele  
Vice Chair Andrew Do  
Supervisor Donald Wagner  
Supervisor Doug Chaffee  
Supervisor Lisa Bartlett

Sheriff Don Barnes  
Dr. Clayton Chau, Health Care Agency  
Joel Golub, Chief Information Officer  
Debra Baetz, Director, Social Services Agency