



April 10, 2010

Colorado State Fire Chiefs
Attn: Garry Briese
2205 W. 136th Avenue, Suite 106, #408
Broomfield, CO 80023

Colorado Professional Fire Fighters
Attn: Michael Frainier
12 Lakeside Lane
Denver, CO 80212

County Sheriffs of Colorado
Attn: Amy Nichols
6001 Ron King Trail, Unit C
Littleton, CO 80125

Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police
Attn: Chief Gary Creager
PO Box 3406
Englewood, CO 80155

Association of Colorado State Patrol Professionals
Attn: Lawrence Oletski
55 Wadsworth Blvd.
Lakewood, CO 80226

Colorado Police Protective Association
Attn: Nikki Thomas
4575 Hilton Parkway, Unit 102
Colorado Springs, CO 80907 USA

Colorado State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police
Attn: Stephen Schulz
2701 West 84th Avenue, Suite #211
Westminster, CO 80031

Emergency Medical Services Assn. of CO
Attn: Don Knox
P.O. Box 3406
Englewood, CO 80155

Denver Police Protective Association
Attn: Nick Rogers
2105 Decatur Street
Denver, CO 80211

Emergency Fire Fund Committee
Attn: Commissioner Ben Tisdell
P.O. Box C
Ouray, CO 81432

Dear respective firefighters, emergency medical service, law enforcement, and dispatchers professional organizations,

I wanted to first thank you and the community of first responders who are critical to protecting public safety, especially during this unprecedented time responding to the novel coronavirus disease-2019 (COVID-19). We appreciate everything that firefighters, emergency medical service (EMS), law enforcement, and dispatchers are doing to keep our communities safe. In your letter from April, 3, 2020, you discussed four critical needs facing law enforcement, firefighters, EMS, and dispatchers that the state should consider.

We agree with the need for equipment for first responders, however, as you know, we face a critical shortage of personal protective equipment (PPE), and an executive order will not assist our efforts to secure additional PPE. We wanted to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to address this pressing and urgent need. This past week, we sent a letter to Vice President Pence

requesting 2,000,000 N95 masks, 4,460,000 surgical masks, 720,000 gowns, 880,000 face shields, and 4,300,000 pair gloves (small, medium, and large). In addition, this past week, we received our third allotment from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), bringing total distribution from SNS, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and private donations to 460,740 N95 masks, 472,000 surgical masks, 61,344 face shields, 94,080 surgical gowns, 844,500 gloves, and 218 coveralls. Finally, we have stood up an entire unit in the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to secure more PPE so that we can continue to protect our medical workers and first responders. Their innovative work in the competitive procurement environment is at a furious pace to acquire these constrained supplies. To date, they have purchase orders issued for more than \$46.2 million worth of medical supplies that the state plans to distribute to health care facilities and local government agencies across Colorado. In addition, many systems in Colorado have implemented Crisis Standards of Care for PPE and begun steps to reuse PPE at this time. That same team is also deploying into the market systems to test the re-sterilization of PPE for re-use, once the proof of concept is met it will be more widely deployed. We encourage you to ask your cooperators to continue to make these requests to the SEOC through WebEOC so that we may continue to press the Federal government to give us these needed supplies.

We recognize the urgent need your departments feel around the state to test their members before sending them into our communities and share the priority of keeping our first responders safe. We are working aggressively to further source and deploy test kits around Colorado, and hope that in short order we will be able to rapidly expand our testing capacity statewide. We are working to make rapid progress on expanding testing capabilities. A number of Colorado hospitals either can or soon will be able to test for and diagnose COVID-19 in-house, without having to wait for results from the state or a private lab, and we are working to procure more tests as a state. Mass testing of Coloradoans, and especially first responders, is a top priority of our team.

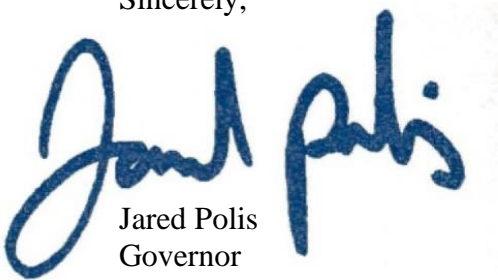
We agree with processes to streamline and coordinate response efforts by Emergency Medical Dispatch systems using Protocol 36 or Protocol 36-like systems. We further recommend those first responder agencies unfamiliar or lacking those processes, develop methods to receive information about people with known COVID-19 infections from their local public health agency to allow for a flagging process in their own dispatching system to alert first responders to enhanced safety protocols as developed by the agency. We further believe that due to the multiple levels of capacity within dispatching systems, this is a decision best arrived at locally. That is why we are also releasing statewide guidance to counties, municipalities, law enforcement agencies, and first responders, which we have enclosed alongside this letter. Finally, the medical professionals inform us that we are likely only seeing approximately 25 percent of the population that is actually positive for COVID and there are many more people that are unaccounted for in a quarantine status because of an exposure to someone. These circumstances strongly suggest thoughtful protocols for any response, not just known COVID positive individuals. For these reasons, we encourage all firefighters, EMS, law enforcement, and dispatchers to consider using this guidance at this time.

Finally, my team is studying an Executive Order to amend CRS 30-15-401 (n.5) (1) to allow Counties to implement burning bans on certain activities for resource protection rather than just

high fire danger to limit open burning excluding which is necessary for agricultural purposes. We know that at this time, we need critical resources to be focused on our response to COVID-19. We recognize that if any of our first responders were to become sick, our efforts to respond to fires and other emergencies would be significantly hampered. Such an order would be in effect for 30 days or until it is renewed.

Thank you again for you and your colleagues' service to our communities around Colorado. Only together will we be able to keep Coloradans safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Jared" is written in a large, looped script, and "Polis" is written in a similar but slightly more compact script.

Jared Polis
Governor