

COVID-19 Learnings From NY

Acurity GPO leaders share lessons and best practices from their members on the frontlines of the New York COVID-19 crisis.

PPE CONSERVATION

Start extreme conservation of PPE NOW.

- Enforce current policies and procedures.
- Lock up all PPE.
- Cancel elective surgeries.
- Eliminate visitors.
- Stop all non-essential services.
- Start extending the life of single use PPE.

Non-acute care sites will have difficulty getting PPE.

Tracking quantity (QTY) on hand, burn rates and projected deliveries of supplies/ PPE will be essential.

Find additional sources of PPE¹.

- Donations
- Construction sites
- Sewing
- 3D printing
- Figure out how to reuse PPE
- Understand grey market implications and risks
- Rain ponchos and food service aprons

Partner with Infection Control and build a triage/vetting process for all the local support/leads regarding ways to provide assistance to the health system.

PATIENT CARE

You will need to increase ICU space.

Evaluate and reassign staff and nurses to patient care.

Develop plan for decanting patients.

SUPPLY CHAIN EXPECTATIONS

Expect that deliveries will stop at the dock (office supplies, etc.)

Anticipate fewer delivery days and larger shipments that will cause space constraints (blood / food deliveries are of particular concern).

Evaluate the need for refrigerated trucks.

IT & FINANCE

Continue with vigilance regarding Phishing and Malware.

- Cyber risks will likely increase in the market as health systems try to vet potential new suppliers / product sources.

Develop process with finance on levels of approval for quickly transacting on available products.

- Many options require wire of payment upfront.
- Level set expectations with senior leaders that misses will/can occur, and that potential dollars will be lost due to fraudulent supplier activity.

For additional tools & resources:

Premierinc.com/covid-19-response

¹ Alternative sources are subject to compliance with applicable regulations and guidance. The FDA and CDC have issued guidance regarding conservation methods and obtaining PPE from alternative sources. Premier recommends that you consult your local hospital requirements, clinical guidelines for COVID-19 safety or applicable CDC guidelines for additional information or guidance on securing alternative PPE.