COVID-19 continues to be a catastrophic public health threat affecting nearly every aspect of life worldwide. Perhaps more than any other outbreak in modern history, the pandemic is putting stress on health systems, including risks to health workers and their safety and capacity to provide care.

Americares is focused on ensuring that frontline health workers can continue to do lifesaving and lifechanging work on behalf of patients with COVID-19 and those in need of care for other essential health services and life-threatening conditions.

We invite you to watch the following brief video: COVID-19 - Americares Distribution Center at Work for a behind-the-scenes introduction to Americares Distribution Center team, who are working tirelessly to ensure personal protective equipment gets to frontline health workers.

Here at Americares, we are exceptionally proud of the steadfast commitment of our staff – from the Distribution Center team to our clinical care providers in Colombia to our emergency response experts and many more – who “show up” day after day to help slow the spread of COVID-19, save lives and improve health.

Americares response remains centered around three key pillars:

- Provide personal protective equipment (PPE), medicines and supplies for front line health workers
- Provide COVID-19 training and technical assistance for health providers on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC), Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), and Outbreak Planning
- Maintain continuity of care for beneficiaries of Americares health programs, including essential primary care services

Given the desperate shortages, procuring and delivering PPE is critically important right now.

- To date, Americares has shipped more than 6 tons of PPE (N95 and examination masks, gowns, gloves and disinfectants) including to partners in the U.S. that serve low-income and uninsured patients in high case count areas of CT, NY, CA, WA and TX.
- Through the critical support of donors and partners like yourselves, Americares is actively procuring additional PPE through an established supply chain for distribution to health systems and safety-net health centers in high need areas.

Across our network of local health center partners serving low-income, uninsured and underinsured individuals, we are hearing stories of clinics having to turn away patients or shut their doors due to lack of PPE. To give you an idea of how critical it is that these safety-net health facilities keep their doors open, we wanted to share a few profiles of the partners to whom we have sent PPE and other COVID-related product in recent weeks:

- Mercy Watch is an all-volunteer, street medicine program in hard-hit Snohomish County, WA.
- Malta House provides health care for homeless mothers in Norwalk, CT. At any time, more than 100 mothers are living at the facility.
- Union Gospel Clinic in WA provides health services for 800-1000 patients per month mostly in the homeless population.
• Texas International Institute of Health Professionals is a group of 3 clinics in Harris County, Texas, which sees about 13,000 uninsured or underinsured patients per month.
• Bridgeport Rescue Mission works with the homeless population in Bridgeport, CT. and serve about 1,700 patients per month.
• Lestonnaac Free Clinic in Orange Country, CA serves 12,000 low-income patients per month.
• Alameda Country Healthcare for the Homeless provides direct clinical care to homeless populations in Oakland, CA.
• Santa Cruz Community Health serves 12,000 patients per month - 1,700 are homeless.

Building the capacity of health workers to provide lifesaving care to patients while maintaining their own health is core to Americares model. In the weeks and months ahead, we will be rolling out COVID-19 training to health center partners that helps frontline health workers:

• Cope with the stressors of the emergency with psychological strategies and support, enabling them to stay healthy and continue providing care
• Gain the knowledge and skills to adapt their operations to address COVID-19 and prevent infection while continuing to provide services and keep their staff and volunteers safe
• Make enhanced, more informed decisions when thinking about preparedness and response during outbreaks

Throughout the duration of the pandemic, Americares will remain committed to supporting frontline health workers so that together, with your support, we can safely and effectively help turn the tide of the current crisis, saving lives and restoring hope.