

Status of Medical Supplies

Biweekly Survey Report

Survey conducted March 9-15, 2020

ASHP surveyed its members to assess the status of supplies and availability of medical masks, including surgical-type masks, N-95 respirators, or other masks used in healthcare settings, during the current COVID-19 pandemic. The survey was informal and nonscientific, and it was not designed for statistical analysis. The survey contained 14 questions, was open for responses for six days, and garnered 403 responses usable for data analysis. The survey will be repeated on a biweekly basis to get a real-time status of mask supplies. Questions about other impacted medical supplies may be added as trends develop.

The United States Pharmacopeia issued an [informational document](#) in response to shortages of garb and personal protective equipment (PPE). The document supports a risk-based approach to enforcement of USP compounding standards and offers suggestions to conserve garb and PPE during compounding activities.

Key Findings

- 15% of respondents categorized the disruption in supplies of surgical-type medical masks as either major or moderate, indicating either going without masks or using alternatives with mixed or poor results
 - 39% reported a minor disruption that was manageable using acceptable alternatives to remain supplied
- 60% of respondents reported vendor-implemented allocations on medical mask supplies
- 19% reported higher acquisition prices for medical masks compared to December 2019
- 84% reported that their organization has a plan to conserve medical masks
 - Of those, 70% have already implemented the plan

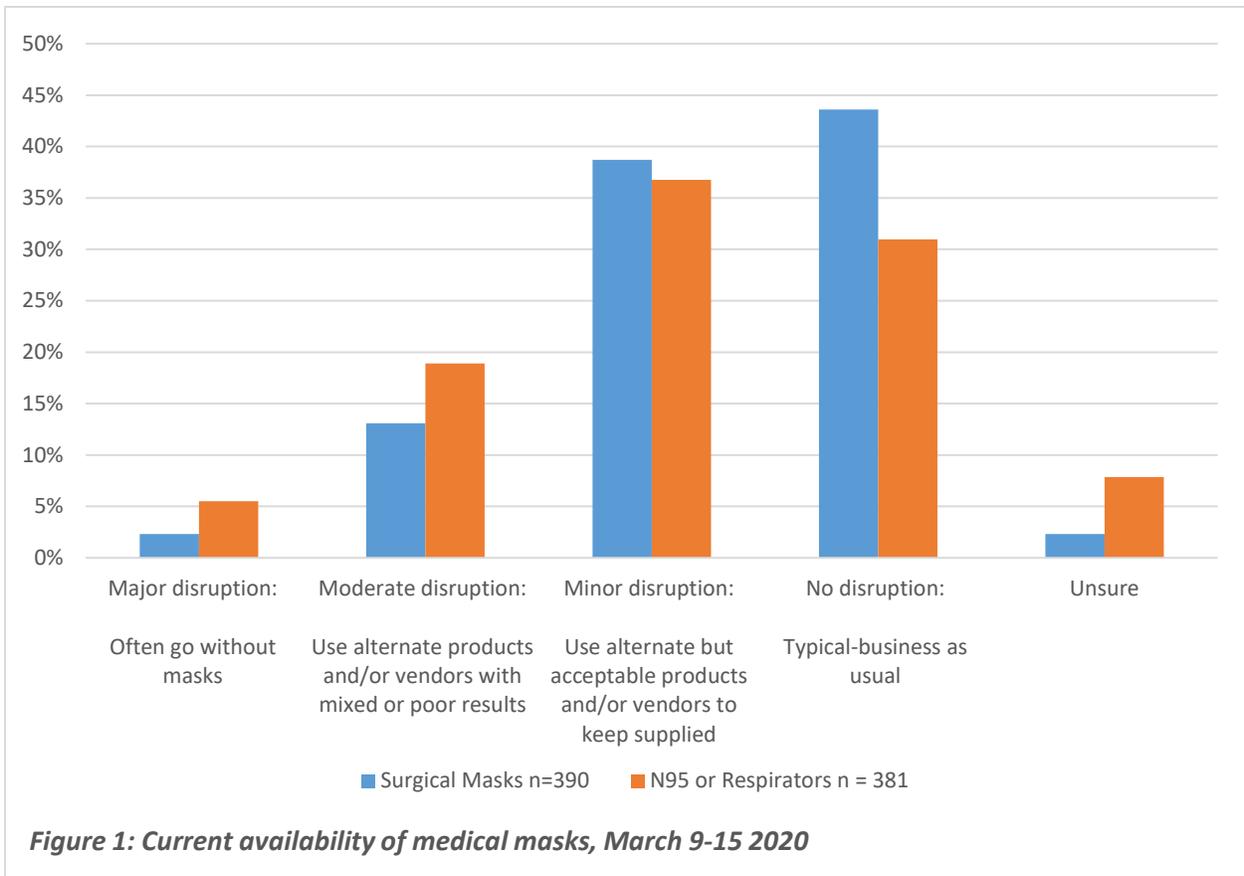
Participants

- There were 403 responses representing hospitals of various sizes:
 - Small hospitals (< 200 beds): 19.5%
 - Medium hospitals (200-500 beds): 31%
 - Large hospitals (> 500 beds): 44.9%
 - Other (not a hospital setting): 4.6%

Results

- Current availability of medical masks (Fig. 1)
 - Major disruption – often going without masks

- Surgical-type: 2%
- N-95 respirators: 6%
- Moderate disruption – use of an alternative product or vendor with mixed or poor results
 - Surgical-type masks: 13%
 - N-95 respirators: 19%
- Minor disruption – use of an acceptable alternative product or vendor
 - Surgical-type masks: 39%
 - N-95 respirators: 37%
- No disruption
 - Surgical-type masks: 44%
 - N-95 respirators: 31%



- Vendor-implemented allocation restrictions for medical masks
 - Yes: 60%
 - No: 15%
 - Unsure: 25%
- Acquisition cost of medical masks compared to December 2019
 - Higher: 19%

- Lower: 3%
 - Unchanged: 47%
 - Unsure: 31%
- Organization has developed a plan for conserving medical masks
 - Yes and have implemented plan: 59%
 - Yes, but have not yet implemented plan: 25%
 - No: 10%
 - Unsure: 6%
- Pharmacy has participated in an organization-wide effort to estimate quantities of pharmacy-related supplies that would be needed during a pandemic (including essential medications, materials and equipment, and PPE).
 - Yes: 63%
 - No: 31%
 - Unsure: 6%

Visit ASHP's [COVID-19 Resource Center](#) for helpful information about COVID-19.

For more information, contact ASHP's Center for Medication Safety and Quality at quality@ashp.org.