

Queen's Park Office  
Main Legislative Building, Unit 451  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A8

416 325.4664  
mschreiner@ola.org



Mike Schreiner, MPP  
Guelph

Guelph Constituency Office  
173 Woolwich Unit 102  
Guelph, ON N1H 3V4

519.836.4190  
mschreiner-co@ola.org

The Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park

April 1, 2020

Dear Premier:

Frontline workers are heroes in the fight against COVID-19.

We must pull out all the stops to keep workers safe while they are doing their jobs to save lives. Our success at limiting the damage from this pandemic hinges on protecting frontline workers.

We cannot allow their safety to be jeopardized because of a lack of personal protective equipment (PPE).

We hear troubling stories every day from the frontlines of the COVID-19 crisis about the rationing of PPE, looming shortages, and workers afraid to go on shift.

Health experts from the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario to the Ontario Medical Association have sounded the alarm about the dire level of PPE supplies and urged the federal and provincial governments to prepare for a worst-case scenario.

It is very troubling to hear that 87% of workers in a recent survey said they did not have sufficient PPE. I am concerned that this situation is going to deteriorate as the number of suspected and confirmed cases rises.

Premier, we must act urgently to ensure that all frontline workers have access to adequate supplies of PPE.

I am grateful for your government's close coordination with manufacturers from across the province to shift their production lines towards masks, gowns, shields and ventilators. These efforts will save lives, and these companies should be applauded.

But we need to redouble our efforts because running out of safety gear cannot be an option.

Nine million surgical masks alone were used last week. As the peak of this crisis nears, we must get major supplies of PPE into the hands of the healthcare workers who need them now.

You have repeatedly assured Ontarians that all measures are on the table. As such, I hope you will consider enacting the following measures if they are deemed necessary:

- Restricting the commercial sale of PPE (including masks and gowns) and requiring that companies redirect all remaining supplies to healthcare workers;
- Mandating the usage of appropriate PPE for all healthcare workers so that everyone feels safe doing their job;
- Prioritizing PPE supplies for long-term care homes, where at least 22 outbreaks have occurred and the risk of spreading COVID-19 is extremely high;
- Encouraging hospitals, long-term care homes and other facilities to cohort COVID-19 patients to reduce the pressure on limited medical supplies;
- Doubling the amount of provincial funding for PPE from the \$75 million allocated in the fiscal update;
- Working with the federal government to access the stockpile of emergency equipment and encouraging the Prime Minister to invoke the Defence Production Act if needed; and
- Ramping up COVID-19 testing at long-term care facilities to prevent future outbreaks.

Premier, we cannot let financial considerations get in the way of acting urgently to procure the supplies healthcare workers need now.

The danger is not in overreacting. The danger is in leaving our healthcare facilities unprepared and our workers unprotected.

Please make every effort to procure the PPE supplies that health workers need to do their jobs and to keep themselves, their families, and the people of Ontario safe.

Sincerely,



Mike Schreiner  
MPP, Guelph  
Leader of the Green Party of Ontario