The responses in this document are correct as of June 09, 2020, and will likely change as the Agency issues new guidance related to PPE. Please continue to monitor Agency Notices for updates.
Table of Contents

General Questions
- Can you clarify who is included in each of the exceptions noted in the guidance?
- What about other types of PPE not explicitly mentioned in this guidance?
- Are hand sanitizer and soap considered PPE?
- Are there restrictions on the procurement of cloth masks?
- What about the use of existing stockpiles of PPE?
- What if I am an Agreement/Contracting Officer (AO/CO) and have questions about if / when to approve the procurement of restricted commodities?
- For how long is this guidance applicable?
- What if I have further questions about this guidance?

Current Awards
- As the Agency adds the agreed clause to existing awards at the time of any funding modifications, can partners continue to procure PPE and other Covered Material under existing awards until any funding modification?
- Will the clause be added to awards to Public International Organizations (PIOs)?
- How should we handle awards that use funds from the International Disaster Assistance (IDA) account with supplemental appropriations for COVID-19 that include a more-restrictive clause on Covered Material?

Local and Regional Procurement
- What constitutes “local and regional procurement”?

Procurement of Restricted Items
- Can implementing partners use funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) to procure test kits and reagents for COVID-19?

Program-Funded Local Production of PPE
- Can implementing partners use funding from USAID to finance the local production of PPE in partner countries?

Agency Communications about PPE
- Can USAID’s Missions or Washington-based Bureaus or Independent Offices (B/IOs) promote stories about past distributions of PPE?
- Can USAID’s Missions or Washington-based B/IOs promote stories about the production of PPE for local use by USAID-funded programs?
General Questions

Question: Can you clarify who is included in each of the exceptions noted in the guidance?

Answer: Implementing partners must seek written approval from AOs or COs to procure any of the items listed here: N95 filtering facepiece respirators; other filtering facepiece respirators; elastometric, air-purifying respirators and appropriate particulate filters/cartridges; PPE surgical masks; PPE gloves or surgical gloves; ventilators; or COVID-19 test kits that are meant for the U.S. market. However, implementing partners may use USAID funding to procure these Covered Materials without written approval from AOs/COs in either of these two situations:

- One, for the protection of and use by their own staff or for sub-recipient or sub-contracting staff. In this situation, Covered Materials may be procured from any source, not just local or regional manufacturers.
- Two, for the safe and effective continuity of USAID-funded programs, which include the protection of recipients and/or beneficiaries. In this situation, implementing partners may only procure Covered Materials from local or regional manufacturers, provided the Covered Material is not, and could not reasonably be intended, for the U.S. market.

Question: What about other types of PPE not explicitly mentioned in this guidance?

Answer: All other PPE and test kits for COVID-19 not mentioned above are not restricted from procurement or subject to limitations pursuant to this guidance.

Question: Are hand sanitizer and soap considered PPE?

Answer: Hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes, hand soap, non-medical rubber gloves, and other cleaning products are not considered PPE and are not subject to any limitations on procurement. Implementing partners should procure them in accordance from the most efficient and available sources.

Question: Are there restrictions on the procurement of cloth masks?

Answer: Cloth masks and other face coverings that do not protect the wearer are not considered PPE. The procurement of these items is not subject to the limitations set forth in this guidance. It is important to note that cloth masks are not substitutes for medical-grade PPE.
Question: What about the use of existing stockpiles of PPE?

Answer: The use of existing stockpiles does not involve the procurement of PPE and therefore is not subject to the limitations set forth in this guidance:

A) The USAID-funded stockpile managed by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) provides PPE for outbreaks of, and investigations into, animal pests and diseases, including zoonotic pathogens:
   a) Missions and B/IOs may continue to request to use the FAO-managed stockpile to provide PPE for investigations of outbreaks of animal pests and diseases, including zoonotic diseases.
   b) Requests for the use of the FAO-managed stockpile should continue to go through the cognizant Agreement Officer’s/Contracting Officer’s Representative (AOR/COR).

B) The USAID-funded stockpile managed by the World Health Organization (WHO) provides PPE for outbreaks of human diseases, and is explicitly meant to serve low- and middle-income countries:
   a) Missions and B/IOs may continue to ask to use this stockpile to fulfill requests from national governments for PPE to respond to outbreaks.
   b) Requests for use of the WHO stockpile should continue to go through the cognizant AOR/COR.

C) The USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance maintains relief supplies, including PPE, in warehouses around the world for quick shipment to disaster-affected countries.

Question: What if I am an AO/CO and have questions about if / when to approve the procurement of restricted commodities?

Answer: For any other requests to procure Covered Material that does not meet the exceptions described above, COs/AOs must consult with USAID’s leadership by sending an email to the following inbox: coveredmaterials@usaid.gov

Question: For how long is this guidance applicable?
Answer: The rules set forth in this interim guidance will apply as long as the domestic demand in the United States for Covered Material exceeds the available supply. Once a domestic surplus exists for such items, the Agency will revise this guidance.

If the Administration issues guidance through a final Presidential Memorandum or other mandate that differs from the approach outlined here, USAID will revise this guidance and require implementing partners to adapt accordingly.

Question: What if I have further questions about this guidance?

Answer: For any questions not already addressed in the guidance, send an email to the following inbox: coveredmaterials@usaid.gov.

Current Awards

Question: As the Agency will add the agreed clause to existing awards at the time of any funding modifications, can partners continue to procure PPE and other Covered Material under existing awards until any funding modification?

Answer: Yes. Partners may continue to procure PPE and other Covered Material under existing awards until USAID adds the grant/contract clause to their awards at the time of a funding modification.

Question: Will the Agency add the clause to awards with PIOs?

Answer: Yes. USAID will add the clause to awards with PIOs.

Question: How should we handle awards that use supplemental IDA funds for COVID-19 that include a more-restrictive clause on Covered Material?

Answer: Some current awards funded by resources from the IDA account from COVID-19 supplemental appropriations include a more restrictive clause but allow the cognizant AOR/COR to approve other procurements. AORs/CORs of the awards that include such clauses should approve procurements in a manner consistent with the new interim Agency guidance. The cognizant AO/CO should modify these awards to include the new clause at the time of any funding modification.

Local and Regional Procurement

Question: What constitutes “local and regional procurement”? 
**Answer:** When procuring Covered Material for the safe and effective continuity of USAID’s programs, including the protection of beneficiaries, implementing partners may procure PPE from in-country manufacturers, or from manufacturers in the same geographical region as the country in which USAID is providing assistance, as defined by the U.S. Department of State’s regional system (Africa, East Asia and the Pacific, Europe and Eurasia, the Near East, South and Central Asia, and the Western Hemisphere). If seeking to procure from a manufacturer that also provides products for the U.S. domestic market, partners should engage in conversation with the supplier and ensure it is not fulfilling orders for the U.S. domestic market. Implementing partners must document this determination in their files or records, and provide a copy of such documentation to their cognizant AO/CO, who must upload it into the file for the award(s) in USAID’s Agency Secure Image and Storage Tracking System (ASIST).

**Procurement of Restricted Items**

**Question:** Can implementing partners use funds from USAID to procure COVID-19 test kits?

**Answer:** The procurement with USAID’s funds of test kits for COVID-19 manufactured in, or intended for, the U.S. domestic market remains on pause. Otherwise, the procurement of high-quality COVID-19 test kits or reagents for programs and projects pursuant to approved Scopes of Work that include the purchase of diagnostics is allowed.

Right now, nucleic-acid tests are the standard for testing for COVID-19, and point-of-care immunochromatographic rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) are not recommended for diagnostic use at the moment. Based on current evidence, the World Health Organization recommends the use of rapid diagnostic tests only in research settings (such as eventual performance evaluations compared to other tests), but not clinical decision-making until there is much more evidence to support their use.

**Program-Funded Local Production of PPE**

**Question:** Can implementing partners use funds from USAID for the local production of PPE in partner countries?

**Answer:** Yes. The prior Task Force notice still applies. Implementing partners may use funds from USAID to finance the local production of medical-grade and non-medical-grade PPE, including (but not limited to) masks, gowns, face shields, protective eyewear, boot covers, linens, and gloves. This guidance pertains to all USAID programs funded from any appropriation account, including supplemental
appropriations. Where feasible, USAID’s B/IOs may also invest in, advise on, or encourage local regulatory authorities to validate manufacturing practices for, or conduct quality-assurance testing on, PPE. Further guidance from the Bureau for Global Health in this area is forthcoming.

**Agency Communications about PPE**

**Question:** Can USAID’s Missions or Washington-based B/IOs promote stories about past distributions of PPE?

**Answer:** Yes. USAID’s Missions and B/IOs may share stories and photos of past PPE deliveries publicly.

**Question:** Can USAID’s Missions or Washington-based B/IOs promote stories about the production of PPE for local use by USAID-funded programs?

**Answer:** Yes. USAID’s Missions and B/IOs can promote stories and information about the production of PPE for local use by USAID-funded programs.