pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Honorable Doug Mastriano
Senate of Pennsylvania
Senate Box 203033
172 Main Capitol Bldg.
Harrisburg, PA 17120-3033

March 24, 2021

Dear Senator Mastriano:

Thank you for reaching out regarding the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) maintained at the Farm Show Complex.

Since March 2020 the Commonwealth has fulfilled every legitimate needs' request submitted for PPE and there are no unmet needs requests at this time. We have pushed out close to 6.3 million N95 masks, more than 1.2 million gowns, more than 3.5 million procedure masks, close to 16.7 million gloves, more than 1.5 million face shields, and close to 1.4 million bottles of hand sanitizer. Most recently, the commonwealth storage area has managed the receipt and redistribution of several million masks for the educational sector, where we worked with the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Intermediate Units to provide these masks to schools. PPE currently is shipped out as needed to support vaccination sites across the state.

Any supplies purchased with state funds are reimbursable through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Costs for PPE are high and as the Commonwealth uses FEMA funds to purchase, we follow that agency's guidance on the distribution of PPE. In your letter, you mentioned that there may be eligible entities that need PPE. If you would please identify those entities and provide me with their contact information, we will reach out to them.

The PPE inventory is part of preparation for this pandemic and any future needs associated with it or other emergencies. As we have done since the beginning, it is necessary to maintain appropriate security for these essential goods. Accordingly, we are unable to grant you access to the Farm Show Complex at this time.

Sincerely,

Russell C. Redding
Secretary
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

CC: Governor Tom Wolf
Alison Beam, Acting Secretary of Health
David (Randy) Padfield, Director PEMA
Troy Thompson, Press Secretary, Department of General Services
Joseph Jacob, Superintendent, Capitol Police
Stephen Rudman, Legislative Director, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture