MEMORANDUM

TO: All New Jersey School District Superintendents

FROM: Colonel Patrick J. Callahan
Superintendent, New Jersey State Police
State Director of Emergency Management

DATE: March 23, 2020

SUBJECT: Commitment to Assist in Providing Unused Personal Protective Equipment

New Jersey’s positive coronavirus cases have risen to almost 2,000 with 20 fatalities. These numbers are staggering and escalating by the hour. The virus has not spared any part of the State – all 21 counties have now been exposed. In the face of this pandemic, New Jersey remains vigilant in doing all it can to flatten the curve and protect its citizens, but the State needs help in its efforts to safely combat this crises. The State’s front-line workers have selflessly answered the call, while at the same time putting their own health at risk. They are attending to individuals who may have, or have even tested positive for, the coronavirus, and they are doing so without the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect themselves. And at a time when hospitals and healthcare facilities are facing a considerable intake of patients meeting this demand with PPE is critical. The shortage of PPE is dire, and it not only puts our healthcare workers and other first responders at risk, but it also puts vulnerable patients and victims at risk. The New Jersey Office of Emergency Management together with the New Jersey Department of Education and New Jersey Department of Health are working collaboratively to identify creative solutions to the shortage of PPE and other healthcare supplies as part of the all-out effort to protect New Jersey’s residents.

New Jersey schools can help. Because all schools are to remain closed as long the Governor’s Executive Order remains in effect, this means that our schools have PPE and related healthcare resources that are both unused and immediately available. This equipment would provide our State’s front-line workers with vital protection so they can continue to help the citizens of New Jersey fight against the spread of the coronavirus.
We must join together to fight this common enemy. We are asking you and your education partners to join us in this effort and ask for your commitment to provide your unused healthcare supplies and PPE to help in the State’s efforts to combat this pandemic. To assist in this ask, the State will work with your school district to provide for future reimbursements if they are made available.

We therefore ask for you to be a part of the solution by donating your unused healthcare supplies and PPE. We request your commitment to assist by 5:00p.m., Monday, March 23, 2020.

Patrick J. Callahan
Colonel