



Press Release

Attorney General Frosh to 3M: “Take Action to Prevent Price Gouging of Personal Protective Equipment”

BALTIMORE, MD (April 21, 2020) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today joined 18 other attorneys general in urging 3M to do more to combat inflated prices of N95 respirators and other desperately needed personal protective equipment (PPE). There has been a critical shortage of PPE across the country and distributors have been taking advantage of the increased demand and charging higher than normal prices for N95 face masks and other PPE. The coalition highlights that, while 3M has committed to maintaining prices for N95 respirators, distributors of 3M products and others in the marketplace have been charging unconscionable prices.

In the [letter](#), the coalition says, “It is crucial that hospitals, healthcare workers, and first responders have access to these masks and other PPE and that they are able to obtain them at reasonable prices so that they can care for patients with COVID-19 as well as others needing medical attention.”

The attorneys general ask 3M to take the following actions, in addition to the steps they have already taken, to work towards eliminating price gouging of PPE:

- Continue to publish policies prohibiting price gouging by its distributors and cease doing business with those distributors who violate them;
- Create a database of 3M’s inventory of N95 respirators for government officials and healthcare providers; and,
- Make transparent how inventory is being distributed and how orders are being filed.

In addition to Maryland, today’s letter was signed by the attorneys general of California, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island, and Virginia.