VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
Oregon Hospital Administrators

Re: COVID-19 Fraud

Dear Oregon Hospital Administrators:

Ensuring that supplies and protective gear needed to address the COVID-19 epidemic are directed to medical care facilities like yours is a national priority. My office intends to investigate and prosecute those who steal, hoard or attempt to profit unfairly from the pandemic. To do this effectively, we need your help.

By Executive Order dated March 23, 2020, President Trump delegated to the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) the authority to designate materials critical to the fight against COVID-19 as “scarce.” On March 25, 2020, the HHS Secretary designated 15 categories of health and medical supplies as “scarce,” thus triggering both criminal prohibitions and civil enforcement remedies that our office will aggressively enforce. These categories currently include:

- N-95 Filtering Facepiece Respirators;
- Other Filtering Facepiece Respirators (e.g., those designated as N99, N100, R95, R99, R100, or P95, P99, P100);
- Elastomeric, air-purifying respirators and appropriate particulate filters/cartridges;
- Powered Air Purifying Respirator (PAPR);
- Portable Ventilators;
- Chloroquine phosphate or hydroxychloroquine HCl;
- Sterilization services for certain medical devices and certain sterilizers;
- Disinfecting devices and other sanitizing and disinfecting products suitable for use in a clinical setting;
- Medical gowns or apparel (e.g., surgical gowns or isolation gowns);
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) coveralls (e.g., Tyvek Suits);
- PPE face masks;
- PPE surgical masks;
- PPE face shields;
- PPE gloves or surgical gloves;
• Ventilators, anesthesia gas machines modified for use as ventilators, and positive pressure breathing devices modified for use as ventilators, ventilator tubing connectors, and ventilator accessories.

If you are aware of any individuals or companies who have acquired more vital medical supplies than they would typically use, or if you are aware of individuals who are offering to sell these supplies for exorbitant prices, please let us know. Our office is committed to investigating and prosecuting any such incidents, as well as any other fraudulent conduct designed to take advantage this pandemic (e.g., false treatments, tests, and/or vaccinations for COVID-19). If you have any information related to this topic, I ask that you please contact our office’s COVID-19 Fraud Coordinator, Scott Bradford at 503-727-1040 or scott.bradford@usdoj.gov.

With help from institutions like yours, we hope to use every available means to help ensure that you and your patients have the supplies needed for treatment and protection against the virus’ spread. I am very thankful for the vital work that you do on a daily basis, and I look forward to collaborating with you to protect the citizens of our community and enforce the laws of the United States during this time of national emergency.

Sincerely,

Billy J. Williams
United States Attorney