

Is Your Hospital Ready for the Next Pandemic?

Smart inventory management and a resilient supply chain are critical to withstanding a future pandemic.



Prior to the pandemic, hospitals turned to just-in-time (JIT) purchasing as a safe and effective way to manage supply chain costs, through a lower carrying cost of inventory and the reduction or elimination of waste from obsolete stock. The global shortage of mask and personal protective equipment (PPE) during the early stages of the pandemic is now forcing healthcare providers to rethink JIT supply chain management.

Hospitals and other healthcare facilities saw supply chain efficiencies and leaner inventories as a way to save money over the last two decades, as they struggled with tighter profit margins resulting from rising healthcare costs, lower reimbursement rates and changing provider reimbursement models (e.g., from fee-for-service to bundled payments).

Overnight, the coronavirus pandemic transformed the financial rewards of JIT inventory management into untenable health risks to staff and patients – as widespread shortages of N95 respirators, surgical masks, face shields, gowns and gloves threatened hospitals' ability to keep staff safe while working to treat patients with COVID-19.

The World Health Organization warned in March 2020 that the global shortage of PPE – caused by a sharp and sudden increase in demand, panic buying, hoarding and misuse – was putting lives at risk from the novel coronavirus and other infectious diseases. PPE prices surged to record highs – gowns doubled, N95 respirators trebled and surgical masks saw a six-fold increase. Shortages of these and other PPE left doctors, nurses and other frontline workers dangerously ill-equipped to care for COVID-19 patients as infections and hospitalizations continued to accelerate.

Hospitals adapted new infection control standards, including the once unheard-of practice of reprocessing N95 respirators. Frontline workers began scouring the web for their own supply of PPE and hospitals were forced to temporarily store what they could get of this scarce and precious commodity in vacated eating areas, parking garages and anywhere else there was space.

Today, as hospitals ready for the next pandemic, they continue to face tighter profit margins from rising healthcare costs, cuts in reimbursement rates and lost revenues from the recent suspensions of elective surgeries. The need to manage supply chain costs in a post-pandemic world is as acute as ever, and is accompanied by a new and growing demand for an accessible inventory of PPE at or near surge capacity supply levels.

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Hospitals and healthcare facilities also need a clean and dry place to store PPE stockpiles – secure, limited access facilities in close proximity where they can be easily accessed and not exposed to contaminated areas, dust, sunlight, extreme temperatures, excessive moisture and damaging chemicals.

Hospital procurement managers need an experienced warehouse manager and an advanced inventory management system that affords adherence to best practices, like monitoring supply levels and replenishing when minimum thresholds are met, stock rotation, online order fulfillment, coordinating JIT deliveries and ensuring PPE is used prior to its expiry or “best before” dates.

Most disposable respirators, as an example, are constructed of components (e.g., strap, nose foam) that can degrade over time. The longer a respirator has been in storage, the less effective it will be in reducing exposures to particulate airborne hazards. Expired respirators may no longer meet the certification guidelines set by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

Our healthcare logistics team can provide you with the smart inventory management and supply chain resiliency your hospital needs to withstand the next pandemic:

- Highly secure, limited access warehouse facilities in Landover, Maryland; Springfield, Virginia and Sterling, Virginia – all within close proximity to Washington, D.C. and major highways.
- A fleet of 180 vehicles dedicated to servicing the local Washington, D.C. healthcare market, allowing us to provide our clients with rapid, flexible and JIT deliveries.
- Experienced warehouse manager and an advanced bar-code based warehouse and inventory management system that allows you to manage your inventory levels and order supplies online for JIT delivery to your hospital or healthcare facility.

Our healthcare logistics team can provide you with the smart inventory management and supply chain resiliency your hospital needs to withstand the next pandemic.

Highly secure, limited access warehouse facilities and vetted staff ensures the safety of your PPE.

Our experienced inventory control managers and warehouse staff are carefully selected and thoroughly vetted prior to hiring. Our employees complete criminal background checks and are subject to mandatory drug testing before and during their tenure with us.

All of our warehouses offer secure, limited access and feature installed central station-monitored security systems to detect door openings as well as interior motion. All of our warehouses are also equipped with dry system fire suppression systems with 24/7 central station monitoring. Closed-circuit TV cameras are strategically located throughout the facilities, and monitored remotely 24/7 by authorized personnel. All recordings are stored digitally.

Our warehouses offer both inside and covered outside staging and loading areas, which together with the dock canopies, provide complete protection from adverse weather conditions. Each location also includes ample paved parking and vehicle maneuvering areas.



A fleet dedicated to servicing the Washington, D.C. market enables JIT deliveries.

Interstate owns and maintains a fleet of more than 300 vehicles, of which 180 are dedicated to servicing the local Washington, D.C. market. Our large fleet allows us to provide hospitals and healthcare facilities with efficient and responsive service. Our fleet is comprised of six different vehicle types, ranging from sprinter vans to custom-designed straight trucks and large tractor-trailers.

Our entire fleet is updated regularly with the latest technological and mechanical equipment available. Each vehicle in our local fleet is equipped with a GPS vehicle locator system, which allows us to closely monitor the status of your shipment through last-mile delivery.

An advanced inventory management system makes managing PPE supplies easy and efficient.

We utilize an advanced, bar-coded warehouse and inventory management system that provides our hospital and healthcare clients with online visibility to real-time information, with the ability to combine PPE inventory from multiple facilities into a single inventory management database for easy viewing.

Our inventory management process starts with a detailed consultation, to ensure we understand your unique needs. From there, we'll design a customized inventory management solution that gives you and your staff full transparency and online access to your PPE inventory, sorted by the parameters you select – with the ability to place orders online from your desktop or mobile device. Incoming and outgoing shipments are digitally entered into the system, by our warehouse manager using a bar code scanner, so you'll always have an accurate view of your inventory.



MOVING RELOCATION LOGISTICS														
Gloves09		INTERSTATE VAN LINES	TRAINING CUSTOMER	MEDICAL	GLOVES	GLOVES EXAM PREMIER PRO NITRILE MEDIUM 5063	0.00			PREMIER PRO	5063	0.00	0.0000	25
Gloves13		INTERSTATE VAN LINES	TRAINING CUSTOMER	MEDICAL	GLOVES	GLOVES EXAM PREMIERPRO NITRILE LARGE 5064	0.00			PREMIER PRO	5064	0.00	0.0000	85
Gloves15		INTERSTATE VAN LINES	TRAINING CUSTOMER	MEDICAL	GLOVES	GLOVES SURGICAL PROTEXIS POLYISOPRENE BLUE NEUTHERA COATING SIZE 7	0.00			PROTEXIS	2D73EB70	0.00	0.0000	25
Gown03		INTERSTATE VAN LINES	TRAINING CUSTOMER	MEDICAL	GOWN	ISOLATION GOWN POLYETHYLENE THUMB LOOP BLUE XL	0.00			PREMIER PRO	2321	0.00	0.0000	22
Gown08		INTERSTATE VAN LINES	TRAINING CUSTOMER	MEDICAL	GOWNS	GOWNS ISOLATION BLUE APRON OPEN BACK NONBL200	0.00			MEDLINE	NONBL200	0.00	0.0000	95

Reap the Benefits of Supply Chain Management

Learn more about how your hospital or healthcare facility can benefit from Interstate's inventory and supply chain management services. Visit MoveInterstate.com/Healthcare.

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The Interstate family of companies encompasses five distinct companies that provide global transportation, supply chain logistics and relocation management solutions to individuals, corporations and government agencies across town or around the world.