



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2020

While the world is focused on saving the most vulnerable amongst us, no one deserves more praise than our medical workers, essential services employees, first responders and countless others putting their lives on the line both here in the US and around the world. They risk their lives, hoping that their PPE will keep them safe, so that they can go home to their families. We must do everything we can to protect them.

Back when our first responders and medical personnel stepped up on 9/11, many worked without the proper protective equipment, and they are paying a price today. Many have paid this price with their lives. We cannot allow that to happen again.

Are Sterigenics, Medline and other members of the Ethylene Oxide Sterilization Association taking advantage of this crisis to turn a profit, now placing the lives of our first responders and medical personnel at risk of multiple harm? They are not only sterilizing items with EtO that do not require that level of sterility, they are now using EtO to also sterilize N95 masks. [3M, the manufacturer of many of the necessary masks, released a statement that EtO is not appropriate to re-sterilize masks due to toxic off-gassing issues.](#) According to the CDC, these issues pertain to the [residual EtO](#) left on the masks and other items which our first responders and medical personnel will inhale directly. The safer Hydrogen Peroxide method is already being used in [Ohio](#) to great effect.

We demand that the FDA ban the use of Ethylene Oxide for the re-sterilization of PPE. We ask Medline, Sterigenics and our government agencies to respect and protect the lives of our essential medical personnel and first responders. There is no reason to repeat the tragedy that was inflicted on those who bravely responded to 9/11.

Information available at:

[Stop Sterigenics](#)

[Citizens 4 Clean Air](#)

[Stop Sterigenics Georgia](#)

[Stop ETO in Lake County](#)

Please contact StopSterigenics@gmail.com or Sri Rao (773) 294-1005 for any media requests.