



AMERICAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

May 26, 2020

Jeff Bezos
Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Amazon.com, Inc.
410 Terry Avenue North
Seattle, Washington 98109-5210

Dear Mr. Bezos:

I am writing on behalf of the American Psychological Association (APA), to ask that Amazon.com recognize clinical psychologists as healthcare professionals for purposes of purchasing professional-use only personal protective equipment (PPE) through Amazon Business. APA is the largest scientific and professional organization representing psychologists in the United States with more than 121,000 members and associates engaged in the practice, research, and teaching of psychology.

As you know, clinical psychologists work in all healthcare treatment settings, directing and delivering the provision of essential mental health services including psychotherapy, psychological and neuropsychological testing, and health behavior assessment and intervention services. The work that psychologists do is critically important during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

In a recent poll conducted by the Kaiser Family Foundation, nearly half of adults in the U.S. reported that their mental health has been negatively impacted due to anxiety and stress over the coronavirus, the effects of social isolation and loneliness, concerns about the well-being of loved ones, impaired sleep, and job loss and financial stress. The mental health impacts are especially dire for patients who have contracted COVID-19 and are being treated, often while isolated from friends and family, in hospitals, nursing homes, and similar settings. Just as importantly, the COVID-19 pandemic is also taking a toll on the mental health and well-being of nurses, physicians, and other frontline health workers, and efforts are underway to increase access to psychological services to assist them. And, of course, roughly one in five Americans was struggling with a mental health or substance use disorder even before COVID-19 began spreading and physical distancing and stay-at-home orders were adopted.

In March, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued guidance to other government agencies and to the private sector on defining “essential critical infrastructure workers” during the COVID-19 pandemic, to promote community and national resilience. The guidance,

750 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4242
(202) 336-6080
(202) 336-6069 (Fax)
aevans@apa.org

Arthur C. Evans, Jr., PhD
*Chief Executive Officer and
Executive Vice President*

attached, explicitly references psychologists as essential caregivers within the healthcare workforce, alongside nurses, physicians, infection control personnel, and others. Additionally, Congress included clinical psychologists as eligible for assistance under the healthcare provider relief fund established under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) enacted earlier this year.

Clinical psychologists are essential to our nation's mental health during this crisis. I urge Amazon Business to recognize this by including them as eligible license holders for purposes of purchasing professional-use personal protective equipment (PPE).

Thank you for your consideration on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arthur C. Evans, Jr.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Arthur C. Evans, Jr., PhD
Chief Executive Officer