

The City of Mentor & State of Ohio's Efforts to Help Stem the COVID-19 Pandemic

The State of Ohio has been widely lauded for its comprehensive and coordinated efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. With 11.7 million residents, Ohio ranks 7th in the US in terms of population yet ranks 31st (as of May 26, 2020) in relation to number of cases per million residents (2,720) thanks to the state's sensible and measured response.

Calculated business closures and social distancing measures were implemented to stem the spread of the virus before it could overwhelm healthcare resources. Unlike hotspots like New York and New Jersey, the curve was successfully flattened; so much so that hospitals were operating well below capacity. Additional resources, including emergency surge hospitals, hotels, and dormitories remained unused.

Ohio has slowly loosened restrictions and reopened its economy in stages through the Responsible RestartOhio Program while keeping a careful eye on testing results. Businesses are working closely with state and local government officials to implement guidelines for the safe resumption of commerce.

The City of Mentor, located in Northeast Ohio, actively engaged with their community with information and assistance campaigns during the outbreak as well as the recovery period. Local leaders were committed to helping businesses not only to remain viable, but to uncover opportunities as well.

Several Mentor-based companies have made an impact by quickly adapting to the crisis and offering immediate solutions.

As the world faced a shortage of N95 masks, STERIS, provided an immediate and timely solution for decontaminating compatible N95 or N95-equivalent respirators using the 28-minute Non-Lumen Cycle available on most STERIS V-PRO® Low Temperature Sterilization Systems, which are utilized in many hospitals and medical centers worldwide. Their process enabled each mask to be used up to 10 times.

Avery Dennison recently announced their intention to produce and distribute a self-adhesive, NIOSH-Certified N95 mask as part of the company's efforts to provide innovative personal protective equipment (PPE) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The N95 mask is a standard of safety in the healthcare setting and vitally important to protecting healthcare workers and patients. GSF's Read-iMask® Self-Adhesive NIOSH-Certified N95 face masks



are made with electrostatic particle filtration properties that make them more breathable. They adhere gently to the face with double-coated skin-friendly adhesive and are available for use in healthcare settings as a COVID-19 countermeasure.

Mentor start-up RB Sigma recognized a need for PPE distribution and organized flights from China to provide masks and gowns to first responders and medical personnel at the outset of the COVID-19 crisis. Since then, they have expanded their product offering and invested in two N95 machines and one surgical mask machine with the ability to produce 4.5 million N95s per month and 3.4 million surgical masks per month.

Volk Optical, a global leader in ophthalmic lens design, and subsidiary of the UK-based Halma, also adapted their processes to produce face shields to meet the world's needs.

As the world continues to fight the pandemic and search for a vaccine, the City of Mentor and the State of Ohio plan to continue their leadership and ingenuity to provide support and opportunities for their ground breaking medical, commerce and manufacturing companies.

Learn more at www.mentormeansbusiness.com.



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