To Combat Protective Equipment Shortage, Prent Designs, Produces and Delivers Donated Plastic Face Shields to Medical Workers in Just 48 Hours

Company will continue making face shields into foreseeable future

Janesville, Wis., Mar. 27, 2020 — When Prent Corporation in Janesville learned that a local medical center, Mercyhealth Hospital and Trauma Center, had a shortage of protective equipment due to the COVID-19 virus pandemic, the company sprung into action. Within 48 hours, healthcare workers had new face shields. Prent has donated more than 10,000 face shields to Mercyhealth and other local healthcare facilities. The company plans to ramp up production to provide to healthcare workers in need throughout the country.

Prent is a plastic thermoforming company that designs and produces custom packaging for the medical and electronics industries. The company had just installed and validated a new thermoforming production line the week before.

“We heard there was a dire need in our community and we knew we could help, so we dedicated a team to work on it immediately,” said Joseph Pregont II, vice president of corporate sales at Prent. “The added capacity means we have an entire production line dedicated to making face shields without impacting other orders. We’ll continue face shield production until hospital supply chains can meet the demand.”

Right now, many healthcare workers are forced to reuse surgical masks because they’re in short supply. The face shield covers the whole face to help keep masks clean so they can be safely used longer.

Prent designers tried creating a traditional face shield with 3 parts (shield, foam cushion and elastic headband) but found it would take too long to get all the parts from suppliers, so the company designed an innovative solution made of only plastic and foam that could be produced and delivered quickly. Doctor Kathleen Agard from Mercyhealth tested some prototypes and choose one that fit well without fogging up.

“Less than 12 hours after I first spoke to Prent, they had prototypes for me to see,” Agard said. “I’m really impressed that they were so responsive and giving of their time. The face shield is very important because it helps keep our staff and patients safe.”

The scratch-resistant, recycled PETG plastic material from sister company, GOEX, was extruded in an unprecedented 24 hours. The machine die was developed by Millenium Die Group in just 5 hours. Then full production began.
During the first shift at Prent, workers produced 2,200 face shields and had them delivered to Mercyhealth. The company intends to continue making face shields for the foreseeable future until there is no longer a shortage at medical facilities. Prent estimates it has the capacity to make millions of face shields per week.

For more information about the newly designed face shield, contact faceshield@prent.com.

About Prent Corporation
Headquartered in Janesville, WI, Prent Corporation is the world’s leading designer and manufacturer of custom plastic, rigid thermoform packaging for the medical, electronics and consumer industries. The company has received an unprecedented 16 WorldStar medical packaging awards. Additional manufacturing facilities are located in Arizona, China, Costa Rica, Mexico, Denmark, Malaysia and Puerto Rico. Learn more at Prent.com.

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