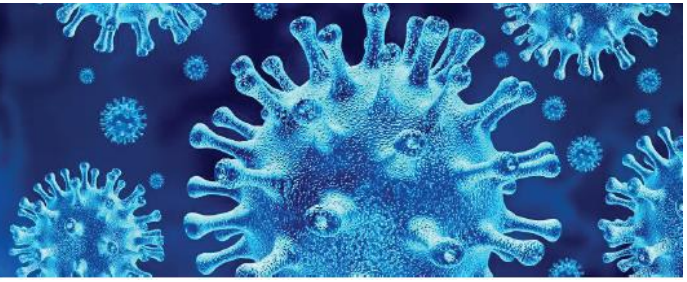


Ohio Manufacturing Alliance to Fight COVID-19

Repurposing and Retooling to Make PPE



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who was the driving force for the initiative?

Throughout the pandemic crisis, we have seen Ohioans working together to fight back against COVID-19. That's what the Ohio Manufacturing Alliance to Fight COVID-19 is all about. It's a public-private partnership that brings together the manufacturing community, JobsOhio, DAS, the Department of Health and other agencies to collaborate with health care providers to provide the equipment needed by frontline health care workers and first responders.

2. What are the areas of focus right now for the Alliance?

The Alliance is currently focused on knocking down barriers to providing much-needed PPE. Through collaboration, the Alliance connects manufacturers with the information, materials and engineering expertise they need to repurpose and retool quickly.

3. Why can't manufacturers simply start making PPE right away instead of relying on outside guidance?

Some manufacturers can do this and already are making PPE. But the demand for PPE is so large we need to enable more companies, of all sizes, to participate. The challenges of repurposing and retooling to make protective equipment are immense for manufacturers of all sizes. It would normally take nine months to a year to get ready to launch a new product. Through collaboration, the Alliance will help them launch new products in weeks instead of months.

4. Are any public dollars involved in funding and deploying this initiative?

The Ohio Office of Budget and Management (OBM) has approved \$5 million in funding for items purchased through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services.

5. What, if anything, can interested companies do to support the initiative?

A manufacturer that has an idea for retooling or repurposing should visit RepurposingProject.com to learn more. There is a short survey on the site that you can complete to get started with the Alliance. Or, if you have questions, please contact us at repurposingproject@ohiomfg.com.

6. Do you anticipate this initiative living on past the point in time where the pandemic has been brought under control? Or is this a one-off initiative?

Our focus right now is on moving as quickly and efficiently as possible to meet immediate demand. As we all know, we will be battling COVID-19 for some time to come, so demand for PPE will remain high. Over time, we'll strengthen our supply chains permanently. We simply can't be dependent on other countries.

7. How does this effort fit with what's happening at the federal level and others?

The Alliance is coordinating with state, regional and national efforts to promote speed and efficiency.

8. What about ventilators? Will Ohio manufacturers ventilators? Ohio is focusing on creating a statewide inventory of ventilators and will continue to procure ventilators wherever they can find them. Additionally, the Alliance will support Ohio makers of ventilator parts and supplies.

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