

OFS SERVING THE NEEDS

of local and global communities during the COVID-19 pandemic

COVID-19 response from OFS has not only brought out problem solving and innovative thinking to supply our customers during this pandemic, but it has also shown the compassion and ingenuity of our OFS employees for their communities.

OFS engineers at the Sturbridge, Massachusetts facility are volunteering to make key components for medical personal protective equipment (PPE) face shields to help keep those on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic safe.

Alex Olesin, Process Engineer at OFS, learned of the local need at Cape Cod Hospital for PPE and knew the Sturbridge team could adapt 3D printing technology used to make both R&D and production parts in the optical fiber manufacturing plant to produce key visor components. Templates for 3D printers were coordinated through [Cape Cod Makers, Inc.](#)

“The first face mask template we tried from an alternate healthcare website was difficult to print and extremely complex to assemble,” said Nick Gauthier, Mechanical Engineering Group Leader at OFS. “The current design is streamlined and functional. We can produce 3 at a time on one machine at a total print time of 3.5 hours.”

OFS makes the plastic visor portion and others in the community provide the foam and laminate face shield that is assembled into the finished product by volunteers at Cape Code Makers. With over 40 volunteers in the Cape Cod area printing face shield components day and night, this connected community has delivered over 1500 face-shields and over 5000 protector sheets to Cape Cod Hospital to use at local urgent care centers, labs and for the Visiting Nurse Association.



Key visor components for hospital staff.

OFS DONATES KEY PPE

for Cape Cod Hospital in Massachusetts, Grady Hospital in Atlanta Georgia, and others



Cape Cod Hospital staff.

The OFS Sturbridge team dropped off 20 visor components from the plant as well as 20 from Olesin's personal 3D printer Easter weekend to Cape Cod Hospital. Olesin and Gauthier have adapted all of the 3D printers in the plant to make these components which will yield 90 visors a week for critical front-line workers.

In addition to the visor production, OFS has donated key PPE including surgical masks and hazmat suits to the Sturbridge Fire Department coordinated by Rocky Allain. In Norcross,

Georgia, Crystal Young and Mike Reams spearheaded the collection of four pallets of hazmat suits, stretchers, and personal protective equipment for the [Georgia Emergency Management Agency](#), who supplies Atlanta's front-line needs including Grady Hospital.

OFS manufacturing facilities are open during COVID-19 as production is considered to be a critical infrastructure industry by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, as noted in its March 19, 2020, [Memorandum](#) on Identification



3D machinery used to make both R&D and production parts in the optical fiber manufacturing plant to produce key visor components.

of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers during COVID-19 Response. The OFS facilities in North America produce products critical to National Defense, Telecommunications, Aerospace, Medical procedures, Energy and Utilities.

OFS is grateful that it is able to continue to operate and contribute in a positive manner to local and world communities and thanks its employees for their service during these difficult times.