

Resident association's initiative to help NHS staff during the Covid-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant delays in getting essential Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to our front line medical staff in Hounslow. PPE equipment required by front-line staff includes a number of items, and one of the key ones is Visors, which consist of a framework for the medical staff to then apply a clear plastic Acetane sheet over the front. Our local Neighbourhood Watch and OWGRA have therefore decided to launch an initiative to make and deliver them.

PLEASE donate via the crowdfunding page set up for this

(<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/visors-for-front-line-medical-staff-in-hounslow>).

This is your chance to help the front-line medical staff in Hounslow working to save people who are ill with the virus.

Laurence Hawcroft Vice-Chair OWGRA (Osterley & Wyke Green Residents' Association)

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Update on 17th April

We have now delivered 200 visors to the West Middlesex hospital, and will be picking up another 300 tomorrow (Tue, 14th) for delivery (together with some 400 masks that have been kindly donated by a local mosque). The costs are now becoming clearer; after £800-£1000 for 2 printers, the cost of materials for each visor is in the region of £1.

We have had to be creative on materials as lots of suppliers have run out, but we now have enough to last for a few weeks. This has meant we have bulk-purchased some materials.

We also have to be very careful in making and distributing them to ensure the absolute minimum number of people are in contact with them when making and distributing them, and that we are rigorous in hand-washing, etc. This has impacted the design we can use (simple with minimal "afterwork" needed), where we locate the printers (all together) and the distribution of them (via a single channel).

We are now ramping up production as quickly as possible. The printers can be temperamental, but the team running them now have them running smoothly. To date we have only been running the printers when they are attended for safety reasons (risk of fire). We are about to move to 24 * 7 working (once we have the necessary fire alarms and thermal cut-outs added to the printers to allow it to be safe to run them unattended).

As well as the West Mid, we have other local groups keen for us to supply them with visors. With the latest reports in the press about the challenges being faced in sourcing PPE equipment from "normal" channels, we are expecting to keep producing as many as we can for a month or more.

So if you haven't donated yet, please consider donating to help protect our local NHS front-line staff. The crowdfunding appeal is here (<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/visors-for-front-line-medical-staff-in-Hounslow>)

Laurence Hawcroft