

April 13, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Many UVA faculty, staff and students are actively engaging in research and innovation to develop alternative sources of critically needed medical devices and personal protective equipment (PPE) during the COVID-19 crisis. Endeavors such as these to assist UVA, UVA Hospital, and other healthcare providers are commendable and encouraged by the University.

In an effort to provide guidance and to improve efficiency and safety, in consultation with the Provost, I have asked Tom Leonard, Director of UVA Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) to keep a register and serve as a liaison for these projects to the UVA community. Please contact Tom (rtl5p@virginia.edu) if you are using UVA resources (e.g., 3D printers or shops) for research or for innovation related to masks, respirators, face shields, ventilators, parts for medical devices, medical supplies, or other PPE or medical devices; and engaging in any of the activities listed below:

- Prototyping, fabrication, or manufacture
- Testing and validation
- Sterilization, disinfection, or decontamination
- Offering material, advice, or other collaborations with commercial manufacturers or consortia and vendors to develop, design, retrofit, or validate these items

Please provide basic information (<http://ehs.virginia.edu/urgentnotice.html>) regarding the PPE and/or medical device(s) under development and a point of contact for additional communication. Please keep in mind that all such on-grounds activities must still follow the guidance outlined in the Provost's March 23, 2020 message entitled Update on the Research Enterprise at UVA. To register your activities, fill out the (excel sheet-located on link above) personal protective equipment (PPE) / medical device (MD) registration form and send to Kate Smith (kms2cx@virginia.edu).

Tom will assist with answers to your questions, help coordinate between efforts, and advise on necessary safety precautions. EHS has already stood up a website to answer many of the questions and offers of services to help you succeed safely. In particular, please do not acquire used materials from healthcare facilities (e.g., used parts for prototyping) without EHS review and approval.

We are seeing countless examples of dedication and innovation from our campus community, many highlighted on our website at COVID-19 Research News. Other examples are less well-known, including the EHS' development and implementation of promising new PPE sterilization and reuse methodologies. I encourage all of you to think creatively, to work collaboratively, and to keep us informed of your efforts to solve the many challenges of COVID-19.

Sincerely,
Ram

Melur K. (Ram) Ramasubramanian
Vice President for Research