



Ohio Manufacturing Alliance to **Fight COVID-19**

Repurposing and Retooling to Make PPE

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Ohio Manufacturing Alliance Helps Company Repurpose to Produce COVID-19 Testing Swabs

Cleveland firm ROE Dental Laboratory Will Produce Up to 1 Million Swabs

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The [Ohio Manufacturing Alliance to Fight COVID-19](#) today announced that ROE Dental Laboratory in Cleveland will produce up to 1 million swabs needed to support a COVID-19 diagnostic test.

“Expanding our testing capabilities is a critical priority for ensuring Ohioans’ safety,” said Governor Mike DeWine. “Public-private partnerships like this illustrate how we’re all in this together here in Ohio. The Ohio Manufacturing Alliance is playing a critical role in helping our manufacturing companies connect with the resources needed to keep Ohioans safe as we fight COVID-19.”

The Alliance helped ROE Dental Laboratory secure the specifications for the swabs from Formlabs, a 3D printing company in Toledo. Formlabs was the original production partner for The Ohio State University and Battelle. However, more capacity was needed given the magnitude of the demand and ROE provides the additional capacity together with Formlabs. The Alliance also partnered with ROE to ensure the company could secure essential materials to make the swabs and connect with state-level efforts to secure them.

“This project is another great example of how Ohio manufacturers are retooling and repurposing to provide essential equipment and PPE.” said **Eric Burkland**, president of [The Ohio Manufacturers’ Association](#). “ROE Dental Laboratory usually produces dental restorations such as crowns, dentures and dental surgical guides, but with the help of the Alliance the company is leveraging its deep experience in 3D printing to help fight COVID-19.”

Through this effort, ROE has invested in more than 36 additional 3D printers, doubling its already significant 3D printing fleet. The company will bring nearly 100 employees back to work in addition to others already working to produce swabs around the clock while practicing safe distancing protocols.

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“All of us here at ROE Dental Laboratory are pleased to be able to bring back our fantastic team of 200 technical employees and use our high-tech 3D printing equipment in the fight against COVID-19,” said BJ Kowalski, president of ROE Dental Laboratory. “We are hopeful the 3D printed testing swabs we are producing will help get life back to normal, so we can resume the work of helping our dental clients make their patients smile.”

ROE Dental Laboratory is just one example of companies across Ohio that have stepped forward to create personal protective equipment (PPE) and related equipment.

“The collaboration with ROE Dental Laboratory shows what’s possible when Ohio manufacturers repurpose operations to find new ways to leverage their expertise to protect Ohioans from COVID-19,” said **Ethan Karp**, president and CEO of Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network ([MAGNET](#)). “Across Ohio, more than 2,000 manufacturers have stepped up to help.”

Governor DeWine announced the project in his daily 2 p.m. press conference, which can be seen on the [Ohio Channel](#).

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