



## Ohio Manufacturing Alliance to Fight COVID-19

*Repurposing and Retooling to Make PPE*

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## Ohio Manufacturing Alliance to Fight COVID-19 Facilitates Donation, Production of Hand Sanitizer Kits

*State of Ohio has distributed kits to protect older Ohioans*

**COLUMBUS, OHIO** – The [Ohio Manufacturing Alliance to Fight COVID-19](#) (OMAFc) today announced that several Ohio firms have come together to donate over 1,300 hand sanitizer kits – made to FDA standards – to protect the health of older Ohioans. The kits have been distributed by the Ohio Department of Aging to the state’s Area Agencies on Aging for use by direct care workers as they serve and help protect the health of older Ohioans receiving meals, transportation, and home and personal care services.

“Even during these tough times, Ohioans and Ohio companies continue to be generous. We thank all of the businesses that donated these important items,” **Gov. Mike DeWine** said. “We are making sure these donations are getting into the hands of our older Ohioans and the people who help care for them.”

**Procter & Gamble** donated 4,000 gallons of hand sanitizer. **Cleveland Whiskey**, a distillery, donated its services to bottle and process the sanitizer into kits. **Axium**, a manufacturer of plastic containers with operations in Columbus, donated bottles. **MAGNET**, the Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network in Northeast Ohio, donated bottles, pour spouts and cartons while the OMAFC facilitated collaboration among the partners. Each kit includes three gallons of sanitizer and 12 refillable bottles.

In a next phase of the hand sanitizer initiative, OMAFC is developing a partnership with the seven Urban League chapters in Ohio. In the next few weeks, more hand sanitizer kits combining products and components donated by P&G, Axium, Cleveland Whiskey, and MAGNET will be distributed through the Urban League to minority-owned businesses, community organizations, and faith-based organizations in each of their respective communities.

“The Urban League of Greater Cleveland is pleased to organize an effort in collaboration with our six other Urban League affiliates across the state of Ohio to distribute sanitizer kits into our minority communities,” said **Marsha Mockabee**, CEO of the Urban League of Greater Cleveland. “We applaud this partnership that will provide the kits and this opportunity to support small businesses, churches and community organizations in Akron, Canton, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Lorain County and Warren/ Youngstown.”

More companies stepped up as well to provide hand sanitizer. For instance, **GOJO Industries** donated 4,752 gallons of Purell sanitizer in 16-ounce bottles. **BASF** donated 936 gallons of sanitizer in 1.3 gallon dispensers. **Anheuser-Busch** provided 433 gallons in 8-ounce squeeze bottles.

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“This project reflects how Ohio businesses of all sizes are collaborating to keep our citizens safe as we reopen the economy,” said **Eric Burkland**, president of [The Ohio Manufacturers’ Association](#). “This team effort facilitated by the OMAFC brought together organizations with diverse resources and skills to fill an urgent need.”

“Our teams have worked for months retooling production lines, coordinating with health experts, and sourcing materials to help make this possible,” said **Ethan Karp**, president and CEO of MAGNET. “What a powerful example of Ohioans coming together to support each other – especially those who are particularly vulnerable to this virus.”

For more information, visit [RepurposingProject.com](#). To find masks, gloves and related products, visit the [Ohio Emergency PPE Maker’s Exchange](#).

OMAFC is a public-private partnership formed to help meet the urgent need for more personal protective equipment (PPE) used by health care workers and first responders. OMAFC is led by The Ohio Manufacturers’ Association, the Ohio Manufacturing Extension Partnership (and its partner organization MAGNET), the Ohio Hospital Association, and JobsOhio, in partnership with the Ohio Development Services Agency, the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, and the Ohio Department of Health.

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