



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

Repurposing and Retooling to Make PPE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2020

CONTACT

Paul Vetter
(614) 406-4968
Paul.vetter@fahlgren.com

Ohio Manufacturing Alliance Launches Exchange to Help Facilitate Access to PPE

Online marketplace offers PPE and related equipment for health care workers, first responders, and essential businesses.

COLUMBUS, OHIO – The [Ohio Manufacturing Alliance to Fight COVID-19](#) today launched the [Ohio Emergency PPE Makers' Exchange](#), an online marketplace where organizations that need Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and related equipment can find a wide selection offered by Ohio manufacturers.

“Nearly 2,000 Ohio manufacturers have answered the call to fight COVID-19 by repurposing and retooling to make PPE and other urgently needed equipment,” said **Eric Burkland**, president of [The Ohio Manufacturers' Association](#). “The online exchange will enable the Alliance to speed up the process of connecting sellers and buyers with equipment to help protect our protectors and keep Ohioans safe.”

The Exchange is not an e-commerce site and the Ohio Manufacturing Alliance will not be involved in transactions between buyers and sellers. The platform is more like Craigslist than eBay. In this way, the Exchange enables PPE makers to list items they are ready to sell or give away. Those looking for local PPE can search listings and connect with makers to procure items for their organizations. Manufacturers that want to list products on the Exchange must first [complete a short survey](#).

“The Exchange will provide a resource for leaders who today may not know how to acquire PPE for their organizations,” said **Ethan Karp**, president and CEO of Manufacturing Advocacy and Growth Network ([MAGNET](#)), which is playing a key role in the Alliance by connecting suppliers and providing engineering support. “It’s especially well-suited for organizations that may have lower-volume needs, such as nursing homes, police departments and smaller retailers.”

The Alliance was announced by Gov. Mike DeWine on April 1. The public-private partnership was formed to help meet the urgent need for more PPE used by health care workers and first responders. The Alliance 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](#).

###