



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Concordia University Wisconsin

Kali Thiel, Director of Communication

(920) 889-5599

Kali.Thiel@cuw.edu

RELEASE DATE:

March 24, 2020

CONCORDIA 3D PRINTS NEEDED RESPIRATOR MASKS AMID CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

(MEQUON, WIS. March 24) – With the largest 3D printing capacity of any nonprofit in the state of Wisconsin, Concordia University has sprung into action to fill the production gap of one of the most necessary medical supplies for professionals combatting the novel coronavirus.

COVID-19 has caused a global shortage of the heavy-duty N95 respirator masks utilized by healthcare workers to avoid contamination. As manufacturers worldwide scramble to find innovative ways to maximize production, Concordia is doing its part to serve its hometown community.

Leaning on direct input from area medical professionals on the front lines, Concordia has teamed up with UWM to identify an ideal prototype of an N95-modeled mask to be printed. What they came up with is not certified by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)—the direness of the concern at hand does not allow time for that. Nevertheless, it's just what the doctor ordered.

While the typical university owns at most a handful of 3D printers, Concordia's brand-new Makerspace Lab boasts 30 machines. Each one is currently engaged in printing prototypes all day long. Within a 24-hour span, Concordia's Makerspace has the capacity to print upwards of 70 respirator masks under one design.

That will add up to several hundred respirator masks within the two weeks that two local manufacturers estimate it will take them to produce a large-scale solution. Those manufacturers are HUSCO International, a global automotive manufacturer based in Waukesha, and the Fortune 1000 manufacturer Briggs and Stratton, which is headquartered in Wauwatosa.

Concordia's Dr. Ken Harris, who previous served as a lieutenant with the Milwaukee Police Department, is leading the charge to rally law enforcement within the Milwaukee Police Department to safely deliver the products to Children's Hospital and Froedtert once they are completed.

Learn more about this project at blog.cuw.edu/covidmasks, including information about Concordia's fundraising campaign to help with the cost of materials.

###