



Bucks County Intermediate Unit

**Bucks County Intermediate Unit
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For Immediate Release:

St. Christopher's Hospital for Children Receives Free PPE Face Shields from the Bucks IU FAB LAB

April 10, 2020 - Doylestown PA: Instead of sitting idle while schools are not in session, the Bucks County Intermediate Unit's (Bucks IU) Mobile FAB LAB has been producing Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) face shields with their 3-D printers and laser cutter. Led by Dr. Lindsey Sides, Bucks IU Supervisor of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) Education, the face shields are created from designs shared with the Bucks IU by Cornell University. Once a prototype was completed and approved, production began on April 3rd.

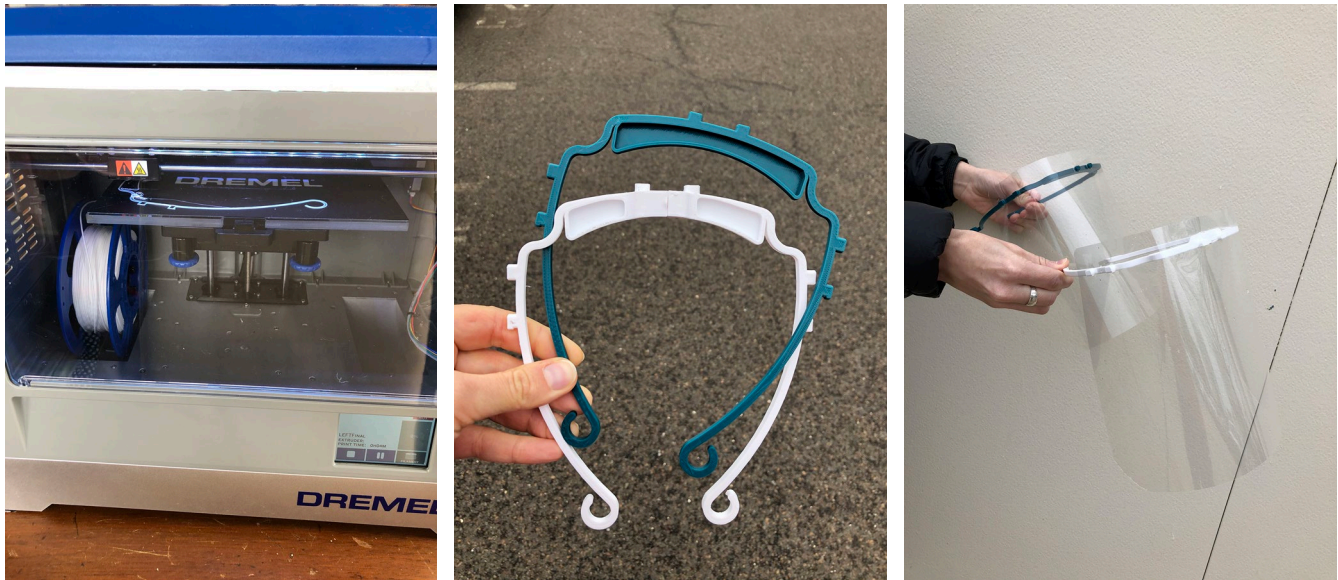
The first delivery of 80 masks was made to the Bucks County Emergency Management Operations Center on April 6th. At the same time, **St. Christopher's Hospital for Children**, located in Philadelphia, reached out to Dr. Sides to see if there was any way they could possibly receive some of these face shields.

As with many medical institutions during this COVID-19 pandemic, patient and staff safety is at the forefront of their concerns and being able to replenish their stock of PPE continues to be a challenge. In line



Dr. Lindsey Sides (right), Bucks County Intermediate Unit Supervisor of STEAM Education, presented seventy-five PPE face shields made on the Bucks IU's FAB LAB equipment free of charge, to Solomon Torres (left), FACHE, Interim Chief Operating Officer of St. Christopher's Hospital for Children.

with the Bucks IUs mission of serving children, Dr. Sides very quickly agreed to deliver some from the next batch being produced.



Pictured above: (Left) A Dremel 3-D printer turns plastic filament into head pieces for the face shields. (Middle) Finished head pieces. (Right) The completed face shields with their clear plastic protective front panels attached to the head piece.

“It is our pleasure to be able to gift St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children with these personal protection face shields during these difficult time with the COVID-19 virus” stated Dr. Sides. “We are grateful to be able to redirect equipment that would have been idle, to now be used to help others by producing such important pieces of protective equipment.”

Dr. Sides, assisted by the Bucks IU FAB LAB Coordinator Megan Boletta, set to work and in just a couple days they were able to produce seventy-five mask for St. Christopher’s. Today, Dr. Sides took the time to personally drive into Philadelphia to deliver and present them to the hospital’s Interim Chief Operating Officer (COO), Solomon Torres, FACHE.

St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children is immensely grateful to the Bucks County Intermediate Unit and their FAB LAB for their fast response, innovative technology, and generous donation of PPE Face Shields. “Their amazing 3-D printing technology and generosity of spirit warms our hearts,” said Solomon Torres, Interim COO. “Within a few short days of our request, they had fabricated face shields that are critical to protecting the health of our employees and patients.”

Dr. Mark Hoffman, Bucks IU Executive Director commented that “Helping children is at the core of an Intermediate Unit’s mission, and we are truly gratified to be able to assist St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children in this small way.”

In the spirit of sharing, the Bucks IU’s PPE design instructions are available for others to use so that they may produce just the head piece with a 3-D printer, or to make the whole face shield by using both a 3-D printer and a laser cutter. If anyone is interested in making only the head piece, the Bucks IU will take those and add the front clear protective panel to complete the entire face shield. Anyone interested in the details can contact Dr. Lindsey Sides, Bucks IU Supervisor of STEAM Education at STEAM@BucksIU.org or call her at 215-348-2940 Ext. 1460.

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ABOUT THE BUCKS COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT:

With over 45 years of service, the Bucks County Intermediate Unit has established itself as an abundantly skilled, technology-rich, provider of high quality, cost-effective, instructional and operational services to public and private schools, school districts, charter schools, and our community. From an exceptional and broad foundation of specialty education support services we advocate for every child, while also offering a wide range of programs, from cooperative purchasing to professional development courses, to nurture a stronger community. Visit our website at www.BucksIU.org or call us at 215-348-2940 for more information.