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Beebe Healthcare Guidelines for Hand-Sewn Masks

LEWES (March 27, 2020) – Thanks to the incredible response from the community, and the help of Pam Smith, RN at Beebe Healthcare, Beebe has a format and instructions for making and donating hand-sewn masks.

Instructions with photos can be found on our website on the COVID-19 Relief Fund page: <https://www.beebehealthcare.org/covid19-relief>.

Smith has created a specific mask pattern that Beebe will be asking all those willing to donate their time to make. These guidelines can be used for a 3-ply surgical pleated mask or one with a pocket that a filter can be inserted into.

Some supplies needed, such as:

- 100% woven cotton fabric
- Cotton T-shirt jersey knit fabric
- Fabric ties that are 14-22 inches long
- A creasing or marking tool
- Optional 20-22 gauge wire cut in 4 inch lengths scissors, thread, pins and other basic sewing tools you may prefer to us
- An iron and ironing board
- A sewing machine.

“We are so grateful for the outpouring of support,” said Tom Protack, President, Beebe Medical Foundation. “If there was ever a time to consider donating to our community non-profit hospital, now is the time.”

“Beebe has made efforts in the previous weeks to conserve proper personal protective equipment, while keeping our employees safe as this COVID-19 pandemic spreads,” said David Tam, MD, MBA, FACHE, President & CEO of Beebe Healthcare. “Donations such as these masks will help us to prepare when a surge comes. Beebe leaders are preparing for when the surge comes not if. These items will be critical to use during that time. Beebe is following state and CDC guidelines to utilize donated masks in the proper medical situation, but they are still invaluable to our cause. We cannot thank these community members enough.”

Masks can be dropped off to Beebe's Population Health Department located at 1307 Savannah Road, Lewes, DE 19958. Bins are located on the covered front porch from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday – Friday. Donations will be collected frequently throughout the day and stored properly by Population Health team members working in the office. Staff is available for assistance, please call us at 302-645-3337. Donations left overnight will not be accepted.

Remember to practice social distancing. Please leave your name with the masks you donate so we can acknowledge your generosity.

In addition to hand-sewn masks, Beebe is looking for other items to be donated:

- Unused face and surgical masks, especially N95 masks
- Eye protectors: safety goggles, safety glasses, clear face shields
- Surgical and medical gloves
- Medical garb, suits, scrubs, and isolation gowns
- Cleaning and sanitizer solutions (such as alcohol wipes/pads, bleach wipes, sanitizing wipes)
- Hand sanitizer, including hand sanitizer bottles/pumps/spray bottles
- Brown paper bags and lunch bags
- Alternative respirators that OSHA has given permission to use in healthcare settings during this historic pandemic.

We understand there is a great demand for many of the items listed above. We will be ensuring that all donated items meet the proper safety standards to ensure the safety of our team members and patients.

Who to contact to donate or with questions:

Donations of items or supplies: Please contact Kim Blanch at kblanch@beebehealthcare.org or call 302-645-3337.

Guidance on handmade items: Please contact Kim Blanch at kblanch@beebehealthcare.org or call 302-645-3337.

Monetary Donation: Please contact the Beebe Medical Foundation at 302-644-2900 or www.beebehealthcare.org/covid19-relief.

Donation of food items: With safety of our team members and patients in mind, we are not able to accept food items now. The Beebe Medical Foundation is putting together a way for those interested to donate funds toward food items.

Emergency funding will directly support the charitable mission of the Beebe Healthcare system. These funds will be used to help purchase medical equipment, supplies, and costs directly associated with patient care enabling our team members to continue to do what it takes to keep everyone safe.

Beebe Healthcare is a not-for-profit community healthcare system with a charitable mission to encourage healthy living, prevent illness, and restore optimal health for the people who live in, work in, and visit the communities we serve. Beebe Healthcare has three campuses: the Margaret H. Rollins Lewes Campus, which houses the medical center; the Rehoboth Beach Health Campus; and coming in 2020, the South Coastal Health Campus. Beebe Healthcare offers primary care as well as specialized services in the areas of cardiac and vascular, general surgery, robotic surgery, cancer treatment, women's health, and orthopaedics. Beebe also offers walk-in care, lab, imaging and physical rehabilitation services at several locations throughout Sussex County, in addition to a Home Care program and an adult activities center.

For more information about Beebe Healthcare, go to www.beebehealthcare.org. To find out how Beebe Healthcare is Creating the Next Generation of Care for the community, go to www.nextgenerationofcare.org.