Dear colleagues at our hospital partners:

As the COVID-19 situation progresses, we understand your teams are under a significant burden and we want to do our part to support your efforts. Our goal is to help alleviate the shortage of PPE by developing designs and mobilizing the 3D printers for rapid manufacturing at our statewide academic institutions including Ivy Tech Community College local campuses and the partner universities of the Indiana Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI): Indiana University, Purdue University and the University of Notre Dame.

Based on the projected need and feasibility, we are currently focused on optimizing and printing medical face shields. Some of our teams hope to start distribution as early as this week. As production ramps up, we want to coordinate with your organizations to figure out what your individual needs are.

We request that all institutions needing supplies to combat COVID-19 first visit EMResource, the Indiana State Department of Health’s new coordination system, to track COVID-19 supply availability within your organization. If you are unable to receive face shields this way, please provide us the following information:

- The approximate number of face shields your hospital(s) will need in the next two weeks
- The approximate number of face shields your hospital(s) will need beyond next two weeks
- Whether your hospital would want the face shields to come assembled with the 3D printed frame attached to the clear plastic (we expect that some teams may want to assemble the shield themselves, to minimize the number of people coming in contact with the shields before delivery)
- Whether your hospital will be able to cover the costs of producing face shields ($2-4 per shield)

You can submit your responses to our questions through a REDCap survey here.

For your awareness, while the shields will not be sterile, they will be clean, as the only human contact would be from the person removing the piece from the 3D printer. We anticipate being able to produce several thousand face shields each week, spread across the various printing locations.

Please let us know if you are interested at your earliest convenience so we can move forward with plans for production.

Thank you,

Anantha Shekhar, MD, PhD
Indiana CTSI Founding Director

Sue Ellspermann, PhD
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