

Free PPE: Using 3D Printers to Help Fight Covid-19

By Tess Howat

Brian Lemanski, Founder and Medical Researcher at Applied Imaging Technologies, is using his talents and resources to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic by utilizing the 3D printers in Dr. Mabel Cheng and Dr. Nicole Lemanski's office space to produce Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). He then provides this PPE –which includes 3DVerkstan visors as well as at least nine additional designs to suit a variety of medical needs including ophthalmologic, primary care and ER equipment– to groups in need all across the U.S., free of charge.

Lemanski was set on producing enough PPE for his own practice as well as enough for others, beginning by working with University at Albany alongside Albany Medical Hospital to optimize the production of 3DVerkstan visors, soon finding a way to print about nine visors per hour using three printers. He began donating by cold-calling at-risk groups in the Albany area,

but has since relied on being contacted by businesses in need, which allows him to focus on maximizing production.

Brian is making sure all PPE remains free, saying, “We’ve found that a lot of businesses have been heavily financially impacted by COVID-19, and there is very little money that businesses have to push the use of PPE forward, so we said, ‘If we keep it free for as long as we can, then the likelihood that people accept PPE, then actually use it, goes up quite dramatically.’”

While Brian provides specific equipment to healthcare professionals, he doesn't only donate to that group. For example, he received an order from the Rotary Club that is doing volunteer work with Kingsway Manor facility in Schenectady. It's orders from grassroots organizations like these that Brian relies on to get his PPE out to the employees and volunteers that need it.



Since the start of their deliveries in early April to early July, Brian's team has donated almost 3,000 visors, both with the help of UAlbany as well as on his own (most deliveries are managed by his own team). If your organization is in need, please contact Brian Lemanski at brian.lemanski@gmail.com for a quick fulfillment of PPE.