PRESS RELEASE: Campaign calls on Businesses to donate PPE to NHS - #ppe4nhs

A new campaign has been launched, calling on businesses in the Mansfield and Ashfield areas to donate personal protective equipment (PPE) to support NHS staff dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.

Launched by Martin Rigley MBE, Managing Director of Lindhurst Engineering Ltd in Sutton in Ashfield, the #ppe4nhs campaign is seeking donations of unused PPE from local businesses, particularly those in the engineering, manufacturing and construction sectors.

As Martin says:

“Having worked in engineering and manufacturing for nearly 40 years, I know there will now be cupboards and storerooms in manufacturing, engineering, construction and science-based businesses, full of brand-new PPE. Our NHS desperately needs this PPE and, as a business community, we have a duty to get it to them, if possible, without putting people at risk.

We understand that there is a specific need for:

- Face masks FFP 2 or FFP3 rated, the rating is marked on each mask.
- Nitrile gloves
- Visors or goggles
- Disposable aprons or overalls

To avoid contact and maintain social distancing, we’ve put a process in place where companies can book a drop off slot and deliver their donations to Lindhurst, at an allocated time without coming into contact with anyone. We will then load up and, at the end of each day, deliver the equipment to the designated NHS point of contact.

Although we are currently only running this in Mansfield and Ashfield, if we can gather support in other areas to host a drop off centre and co-ordinate delivery times, there’s no reason why we can’t roll this out across the county or even nationwide”.

To make a donation, please e-mail Simon Hawkins at Lindhurst Engineering simon@lindhurst.co.uk to arrange a delivery time.

Ends:

Notes to Editors:

- For further information contact Martin Rigley at martin@lindhurst.co.uk
- Martin Rigley MBE has been Managing Director of Lindhurst Engineering for the past 25 years. He was awarded an MBE in the 2016 New Years Honours list for his services to Business & Innovation. He is also Chairman of Discover Ashfield and a Board member of East Midlands Chamber.
- Please use the hashtag: #ppe4nhs in any communications
- Further background details to the campaign are provided below in Annex 1:
#ppe4nhs Campaign

Executive Summary

The Covid-19 pandemic has hit the whole of society very hard and very fast - who could have predicted the massive impact on society, business and, most importantly, our health care systems?

It is clear that demands on the NHS will be huge and impossible to comprehend, with the demand for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) outstripping current supply.

The news on Monday from the Prime Minister that the majority of businesses were to close, in order to control the spread of the virus, came as a shock to many business owners and leaders.

Having worked in engineering and manufacturing for nearly 40 years, I know there will now be cupboards and storerooms in manufacturing, engineering, construction and science-based businesses, full of brand-new PPE. Our NHS desperately needs this PPE and, as a business community, we have a duty to get it to them, if possible, without putting people at risk.

What Do They Need?

I have been informed by an associate, whose daughter is a Consultant at QMC Hospital in Nottingham, that they need:

- Face masks FFP 2 or FFP3 rated, the rating is marked on each mask.
- Nitrile gloves
- Visors or goggles
- Disposable aprons or overalls

This information is only from one source and there may be other things they need - we require a conduit to check.

How Would It Work?

According to the NHS Confederation web site (https://nhsconfed.org/resources/key-statistics-on-the-nhs) in England alone, (we could and should be trying to get this initiative going across the whole of the United Kingdom), there are:-

- 207 clinical commissioning groups
- 135 acute non-specialist trusts (including 84 foundation trusts)
- 17 acute specialist trusts (including 16 foundation trusts)
If we could identify a Community Champion in each Trust area, to co-ordinate local activities (there are currently a lot of people with great organisational skills sat at home, bored!), these could:

- Managing communications locally
- Identify a single point, or a small number of drop off points, where businesses could take their PPE donations.
- Manage the drop offs, by giving people a timed drop off slot, thereby maintaining social distancing rules.
- Identify the best route into their local Trust.
- Organise, or make, a single daily drop off - thereby minimising contact and burden on the logistics at the local Trust.
- Maintain a log of which companies have donated – these deserve some recognition when we come out the other side of this.

I feel there would be a need for some regional co-ordination of Community Champions, so they could share good practice.

I think we are talking of a burst of activity over a number of days only, as the stocks held by businesses would soon become depleted.

**Promotion**

I started this yesterday, by making a statement that we had donated from the stocks of my business, Lindhurst Engineering ([www.lindhurst.co.uk](http://www.lindhurst.co.uk)), to a contact we had at East Midlands Ambulance Service, on my personal LinkedIn feed (Martin Rigley MBE). This received some really positive feedback, which made me think about whether we could scale this up, starting locally, with a view to promoting nationally.

I have started using the hash tag #ppe4nhs and we have set up:

- Twitter @ppe4nhs
- Facebook @ppe4nhs

If a donation is made and promoted via social media, please could people use #ppe4nhs and #ppe4nhsfollowedbytheirtrust - so ours would be #ppe4nhsnewarkandsherwood.

That way, we can gauge coverage and identify any cold spots where we may need to utilise our wider networks to promote the initiative.

We now need local volunteers to manage and co-ordinate the activity; donations of PPE from businesses and support with delivery (vans and drivers) to the various NHS centres.

Between us we can make this work!

Thanks

Martin Rigley MBE
Managing Director
Lindhurst Engineering Ltd, Sutton in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire. NG17 5GS

Contact: [martin@lindhurst.co.uk](mailto:martin@lindhurst.co.uk)