

Dear COVID Colleagues,

Our all-volunteer group is rapidly sewing masks for your protection. These items are made with much love and all our prayers and best wishes that you and the ones you care for remain safe and well now and in the coming months.



We are Nebraska's Hands & Feet on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/494464037870538/> We have instructions on our page for making masks if you sew and want to make your own. These include a step-by-step video and a supportive community to answer questions.

From the time our group started on March 21 we have made more than 5,000 pieces of reusable masks, gowns, and caps and have requests for many thousands more across Nebraska. We have been going through our own closets and sewing boxes for fabric, elastic, thread, needles and other materials. We are working out of our bedrooms and basements. Our volunteers, many of whom are on unpaid furlough, are purchasing materials out of their own pocket. We are running out of materials and money. **We need help to continue to help you.**

Due to the impact of COVID on manufacturing and delivery services it has become difficult to find the materials we need. Elastic, for example, has May delivery for orders placed at the end of March.

You can help us help you by reaching out to your family, friends, church groups, social media friends, and any organizations you belong to and asking them to donate materials we need. These include:

- ✚ Quilters' cotton fabric
- ✚ 100 percent cotton or linen fabric; or high cotton content fabric (over 80 percent)
- ✚ Non-woven fabric, like sew-in interfacing
- ✚ Sheets and pillowcases we can repurpose to make protective gowns. They do not have to be new!
- ✚ Round elastic (ponytail band size); ¼ to ½ inch elastic
- ✚ ¼ to ½ inch cotton twill tape
- ✚ Cotton or high-cotton content bias tape
- ✚ Thread (not metallic)
- ✚ Sewing machine needles size 80/12 or 90/14 sharps (not ball point or universal)
- ✚ Dressmakers pins
- ✚ Aluminum craft wire (for nose pieces in masks) Other wire rusts after repeated washing.

If you gather the items at your facility one of our volunteers will collect it.

If you don't sew but can wash, iron, and cut fabric into rectangles we can use your help, too! Share this information so that everyone can make and have a mask.

Our Facebook page, Nebraska's Hands and Feet, is the best way to get in touch with our group.

We are doing our best to support you. We hope you feel our hands helping yours.



Nebraska's Hands & Feet/Masks4Medics Project & Timeline



Facebook group opened March 21, 2020. By mid-afternoon, 35 members.

News segment aired on WOWT, March 21, 2020.

By Sunday afternoon, March 22, membership jumped to 1,000+ members.

Where do members live?

- 70% are from the Omaha metro area
- 15% are from Nebraska
- 10% are from other states in the USA
- 5% are from other countries

In the first 10 days of project, 4748 masks had been requested by:

- Hospitals
- Pharmacies
- Home health nurses
- Urgent care offices
- Day cares
- Insurers
- Residential facilities
- Nursing homes
- Assisted living facilities
- EMTs & other first responders
- Rehabilitation offices
- Therapists
- Transportation personnel
- Dialysis centers
- People with immune-compromised family members

Donations accepted via:
Venmo: @Masks4Medics

PayPal: [Paypal.me/Masks4Medics](https://www.paypal.com/Me/Masks4Medics)
or Masks4Medics1@gmail.com

Who Needs a Mask?

- Nearly 65,000 licensed health care practitioners in the state
- Every essential worker: police, fire, EMS, daycares, restaurant staff,
- 1 million Omaha metro residents need a mask
- Every family member, especially if there's a high risk family member
- Every person who ventures out to shop, run errands, pick up medications
- Every Nebraskan needs a mask or 2; some will need 3-4 because of their job, risks, etc.

Statistics

as of April 6, 2020

Nebraska's Hands & Feet membership	2,200+ Facebook page members
Mask requests	10, 257
Estimate of number of masks delivered	3,500 done; 6,400 under construction/being shipped
Value of delivered masks	\$35,000 (Retail prices 7.99 – 12.99 each)
Value of requested masks	\$99,170
New requests per day	up to 1,000 per day now
Isolation gown requests	173
Gown-making team (The Gown Girls)	17 members
Face shields	175
Scrub hats	40
Sewing team	195 members
Transport team	47 members
IT/Admin/Publicity team	7 members

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How YOU Can Help

Mobilize community & governmental resources; appeal to constituents, churches, 4-H, quilters' guilds, 3D printer users/suppliers, etc. and private industry for:

1. **People** to sew masks; we need volunteers; no one is paid; most are furloughed
2. **Fabric for Masks-** 8 masks can be made from 1 yard of quilter's grade, 100% cotton. Hospitals and other facilities using re-use sterilization *need 100% cotton items* as manmade fabric melts in autoclave and high-temperature wash/dry cycles
3. **Fabric for Gowns:** 4 yards of the same 100% cotton or bedsheets, new or used/bleached
4. **Cotton T-shirt fabric** for ties. 2 yards of 1" strips per mask - optimal for workers required to wear them for long periods at a time.
5. **Elastic – ¼ inch.** 20 inches per mask – acceptable for those who need to wear a mask for a short period of time
6. **Volunteers** to collect and distribute donated supplies to specified locations
7. **Stores/retailers/churches** to provide space for donated materials drop-off/pickup (especially those like Country Sampler at 120/Center, Hobby Lobby, Joann's, Mangelsons, WalMart, & Michael's.)
8. **Churches or large venues with adequate space** to sort & prep supplies, while maintaining social distancing
9. Identify **funding sources** for supplies, transportation & shipping costs, and possibly even providing some stipends for volunteers, since many of them are currently furloughed, unable to work, many without salaries.
10. A **webpage/domain and assistance** building, organizing, & maintenance
11. **Encouragement & motivation** to stand together and support each other; this need will not disappear in a few weeks; this germ is here and we will battle it for many weeks/months to come!

49 other governors and tens of thousands of health care agencies and customers are vying for the same medical and material supplies.

Prices are rising as material availability decreases.

With online ordering, we have no idea when those supplies will arrive HERE as shipping/delivery dates for many materials are currently at the end of *MAY*.

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