



VIRGINIA NETWORK OF HEALTH CENTERS SECURES ABILITY TO HAVE SUFFICIENT N95 MASKS FOR ITS HEALTH CENTER PROVIDERS AS COVID-19 SURGE IN VIRGINIA APPROACHES

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Cenevia, a company owned by all the federally qualified health centers in the Commonwealth of Virginia, today signed a contract to assure its health center providers will have sufficient face masks when the corona virus spikes in Virginia. Cenevia signed the contract with Battelle, an Ohio-based company that is the only one to receive the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) approval to decontaminate respirator masks using concentrated, vapor phase hydrogen peroxide. Virginia health centers will be the first health entities in Virginia to decontaminate masks with this FDA-approved process. Health centers will collect worn respirator masks daily in accordance with an approved procedure and courier these respirator masks to Battelle CCDS™ operations. This process allows the masks to be cleaned twenty times, thereby decreasing the number of masks that must be purchased to accommodate a surge in patients.

Rene Cabral-Daniels, CEO of Cenevia states she is excited about the potential this new process represents. “Cenevia recognizes the crucial role health centers play in flattening the curve in Virginia. Health centers provide care to all, including the medically underserved. When health center doors remain open, their ability to care for patients helps decrease the volume of patients presenting at emergency rooms unnecessarily. Reusing scarce respirator masks not only allows health centers to protect their providers but also has the added benefit of assuring a greater number of masks are available for non-health center providers. The availability of respirator masks for providers allows health centers to remain open, thereby allowing scarce financial resources to be dedicated to patient care.”

Health centers will begin sending masks to Battelle as early as this Friday. Virginia's Covid-19 outbreak peak is predicted for April 20th, according to The University of Washington's Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.