



Stop The Bug

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Group Spurs Nationwide PPE Collaboration

Seattle, WA: Today Seattle PPE non-profit Stop The Bug announced it will expand its efforts nationwide. To date, the volunteer group has delivered over 8,179 homesewn N95 mask covers, 400 face shields, and isolation gowns to Pacific Northwest area hospitals, first responders, and non-profit organizations.

Since its beginning as a Facebook group March 19, Stop The Bug quickly gained momentum and partnerships to focus efforts getting PPE to first responders and hospitals. Sewists and DIY craftpersons nationwide have shipped home crafted PPE to Seattle to combat the coronavirus outbreak. With authorities now saying that Washington State has likely passed its hospitalization peak, Stop The Bug is helping hard hit areas in other parts of the nation.

A personal connection motivated co-founder Victory Lonquist to action: An ER nurse friend told Lonquist she was doing her shift in a bandana, because masks were in short supply. “I drove to the hospital, gave her my own N95, drove back home, and started the nationwide mask and PPE drive, which then became Stop The Bug.”

Sunday, April 12, Stop The Bug delivered 50 homesewn masks to the Friends of Youth Redmond youth shelter, which announced its first positive case of COVID-19 this week. On Wednesday, April 15, Stop The Bug delivered 200 masks to Eastside Fire and Rescue, and 100 masks to Ronald McDonald House.

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collection and distribution, social media, and homeless outreach. It's also organizing a group for fundraising, to cover the costs of materials, distribution, and operations.

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On its website www.stopthebug.org, the organization has made hospital-approved patterns available for those who want to help make PPE for first responders in their own communities. Because homeless communities and those who work with them are at particular risk from the disease, providing them PPE is a top priority for Stop The Bug. Masks made by their partners at Enactus City University of Seattle have gone to Union Gospel Mission, Chief Seattle Club, Millionaire Club, Mary's Place among others.

Stop The Bug's main mission is to centralize and focus nationwide efforts through Stop The Bug as a "hub" of our nationwide task force. Stop The Bug is currently working with smaller mask drives and organizations across the country in collaboration to create an efficient response to help our front line and first responders. Stop The Bug is also helping to organize and collaborate with manufacturers such as Filson, KAVU, and other manufacturers to produce PPE, which is distributed through Stop The Bug to our front line. Stop The Bug has teamed up with many wonderful companies and partners, they are working with members or affiliates of Google, Microsoft, Apple, Boeing, Give Love, Hopelink, Washington State Ferries, members of the Coast Guard, Navy, and Army, and more. Full list of our partners is available on our website.

"Personal protective equipment is still very much in need," says Lonquist. "This week I spoke with the charge nurse for a local Covid-19 isolation and quarantine unit. Their nurses are using dollar store rain ponchos to enter quarantine units, as manufactured isolation gowns are no longer available. That's why Stop The Bug is going to keep working hard at this. We must protect those who protect us."

For details, or to make a donation, please visit Stop The Bug at www.stopthebug.org ***