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## **Flowfold Pivots To Manufacturing Personal Protective Equipment in Response to Hospital Shortages**

*Flowfold, a Maine based manufacturer, has shifted to the production of protective Face Shields with the first batch going directly to MaineHealth this week.*

**Portland, ME, March 24, 2020** – Flowfold, a manufacturer of high quality travel and everyday gear, has pivoted its business to supply hospitals with personal protective equipment (PPE) in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic. Flowfold has a technologically advanced factory that is extremely flexible. Given the shortage of PPE in hospitals across the country, the company has suspended production of their usual line of bags, packs, and related travel and everyday accessories, and switched to the production of Face Shields, a pivotal piece of equipment that keeps health care workers safe during prolonged face-to-face or close contact with potentially infectious patients.

According to the CDC on [Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations](#), “person-to-person transmission most commonly happens during close exposure to a person infected with COVID-19, primarily via respiratory droplets produced when the infected person coughs or sneezes.” Personal protective equipment is specifically designed to limit the danger of transmission to the men and women on the front line, our Health Care Providers (HCP). However, hospitals across the country are experiencing shortages of PPE, putting HCPs at great risk.

“We felt the effects of the virus in our community and wanted to be a part of the solution,” says Devin McNeill, Flowfold’s Co-Founder. “Taking a look at our production capabilities, we found we could quickly pivot to manufacture face shields.” Not only has Flowfold swiftly adapted to produce these critical pieces of PPE, they have done so in a safe and low-risk manner. Sewing machines have been moved at least 6 feet apart, new, intensive cleaning schedules are in place to make sure the factory is kept decontaminated, and the doors are effectively locked to keep the workspace as sterile as possible.



Flowfold’s first order of Face Shields is going out to MaineHealth this week. “It is times like these when coming together as a community to support one another – individuals, non-profit organizations and business partners – reflects the very best of humanity,” says MaineHealth Chief Executive Officer Bill Caron. “Flowfold is one such example of how collaboration and innovation will help us navigate the challenges ahead as we address this unprecedented health care crisis together.”

Flowfold has encouraged other local manufactures to help where they can, offering to support any manufacturers who might also be able to allocate resources. Flowfold directs them to [flowfold.com/PPE](http://flowfold.com/PPE).

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**About Flowfold**

Flowfold is a Made in USA manufacturer making wallets, bags, and other everyday accessories for men and women. Founded in 2010, the company began in a basement on Peaks Island, Maine, making durable, lightweight wallets out of recycled high-tech sailcloth. Never wavering from its foundational devotion to quality and sustainability, Flowfold has grown into an international brand, shipping products all over the world from their headquarters in Gorham, Maine. Prioritizing quality craftsmanship and versatile design, Flowfold is committed to crafting the highest quality gear for everyday use. Learn more at [www.flowfold.com](http://www.flowfold.com), Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter