



NEWS RELEASE

viking[®]
yachts

Route 9, New Gretna, NJ 08224
Phone 609-296-6000
Fax 609-296-4762

For immediate release
Contact: Chris Landry
609-296-6000; ext. 1438
clandry@vikingyachts.com

Protecting People

Viking launches COVID-19 Project for Face Shield Manufacturing; 1,000-plus shields to be provided to medical facilities to aid the fight against the Coronavirus. Effort will also fabricate shields and other PPE for Viking boatbuilders.

(April 17, 2020, New Gretna, New Jersey)—The Viking Yacht Company has launched a medical face shield manufacturing project to help address the crucial need for medical equipment and PPE in the healthcare community during the Coronavirus pandemic.

“We realize the tremendous sacrifices being made by doctors, nurses and the entire medical field as they battle the Coronavirus on the front lines,” said Viking Executive Vice President Drew Davala. “We’re simply doing our part to help these heroes in any way we can. We have tremendous resources and technology here at Viking, and incredible people who are eager to support the cause.”

Viking has a long history of assisting the institutions, schools, churches, charities and medical establishments of New Jersey. The company has already donated nearly 3,000 of the 3M N95 respirator masks as well as 100 Tyvek suits, boots and hoods to various regional medical facilities.

Watching New Jersey’s need for medical equipment reach critical levels, Davala along with the Viking Group’s Executive Co-Chairman Bob Healey Jr. and Director of Special Projects Robert Sherriff wanted to do even more to help healthcare facilities. They also saw an opportunity to increase Viking’s own PPE levels for its workforce.

Multi-Pronged Project

Several ideas emerged from the trio’s brainstorming sessions, each utilizing Viking’s design, engineering and manufacturing resources and expertise. First, Viking has begun using its 3D printing technology to fabricate protective face shields for healthcare professionals in the surrounding communities of New Jersey.

The Design & Engineering Department, using its 3D printing machine, expects to fabricate more than 1,000 face shield kits. The shields keep medical personnel safe by protecting their eyes and also extending the life of the N95 respirator masks. The Viking Design and Engineering Department has modified and optimized an approved design for face shield “halos,” which are the plastic head frames that hold the face coverings.

“After trying six or seven prototypes over the course of about two weeks, we came up with a halo that’s practical and can be manufactured efficiently and quickly,” said Winston Zeberlein, Viking’s Additive Manufacturing Engineer. “With the first prototype, one halo took 90 minutes to complete. We’ve cut that down to about 20 minutes. And we’ve developed a method to fabricate the halos in stacks, one on top of another. Air gaps are printed between the halos so they can be easily separated.”

The design will allow Viking to build more than 280 halos in under 96 hours. With their three-point mounting design, the halos make assembly of the face shield quick and easy with the use of 8-1/2” x 11” plastic transparency sheets. “You simply use a standard three-hole punch tool on the transparency sheet, and the holes created line up with the three attachment posts of our halo,” says Bill Hall, Viking Manager of New Product Development. The attachments points are integrated into the halo’s outer ring, which projects about 2 inches from its base, providing clearance for the N95 mask.

The second component of Viking’s multi-pronged Coronavirus project revolves around the distribution of the face shield design and our method of 3D manufacturing. Viking intends to make the design and supporting information available to as many companies or individuals with 3D printing capabilities as possible. “This was always an idea that was intended to be shared, and not just in New Jersey, but all around the country and the world,” said Hall.

Viking’s design and fabrication of a face shield for its boatbuilders is the third part of our protection efforts. The halos for these shields are also being fabricated with Viking’s 3D printing technology. In addition, the shields themselves are being cut by Viking CNC machinery and molded and finished in the company’s Machine and Paint Shops. Their material consists of clear hard acrylic panels supplied through the Philadelphia area’s Trident Plastics, a Viking vendor. Shaped to wrap around the user’s face, these durable full face masks can be easily cleaned and used multiple times.

For information about Viking’s face shield design and manufacturing please contact Bill Hall via email: bhall@vikingyachts.com.

About the Viking Yacht Company: Founded by brothers Bill and Bob Healey in 1964 on the banks of the Bass River in New Gretna, New Jersey, Viking has become the leading semi-custom production builder of sportfishing and motor yachts in the world, with more than 5,000 boats delivered in our 56-year history. The Viking fleet consists of yachts from 38 to 93 feet, and the company recently launched a lineup of outboard-powered center consoles – Valhalla Boatworks. A vertically integrated company where 90 percent of every boat is built in-house, Viking operates several subsidiaries, including Palm Beach Towers and Atlantic Marine Electronics. Viking, driven by the mantra “to build a better boat every day,” looks forward to continuing to serve the Viking family with industry-leading products, dealers and customer service.

###