



To Boston Foreign Commerce Club Members & Supporters

Our organization is hoping that all of you are in good health and adjusting to this unprecedented COVID-19 situation. While we all have been impacted by this situation, this message is focused on those who have been diagnosed with the coronavirus, and the real heroes in our society - members of our community who provide direct medical care and assistance to those people who came down with this virus.

Many people stricken with the coronavirus have been forced to abruptly travel to hospitals and medical facilities in this area. Most needed to stay for treatment for an extended period of time. While the Boston area has a well-earned reputation of having a large number of quality hospitals and medical centers in the area, the proliferation of coronavirus patients has created huge challenges for those who work in those facilities. In many facilities, there has not been enough available beds, PPEs, nor 8 hour shifts to effectively handle this crisis situation.

The Boston Foreign Commerce Board of Directors decided we wanted to take action, based upon first hand feedback from family and other members in our communities who were on the front line assisting very sick patients. Our internal discussion focused on “how can we support and help those who treat others” to help protect them from becoming infected while doing their jobs. The idea of searching out options to find PPEs (specifically protective masks) was brought up by board member Charlie Cunnion. His suggestion was discussed within our group, and we then quickly decided we would find, and contribute, masks as quickly as possible to those dealing directly with COVID-19 patients.

On Monday, March 23rd, board member David Solomon was able to procure and personally delivered approximately 1000 masks (N95 and surgical masks), with funding from our club. He knew of a local hospital was in acute need of this PPE product and navigated access to the person who was responsible front-line workers at that facility. David then arranged to personally deliver those masks to the desired location. Through David’s efforts, our club was able to arrange access to another 2500 KN95 masks. With our club’s contribution, they were made available on same day and quickly accessed by two hospitals - one in Boston, and another just outside of Boston.

The Boston Foreign Commerce Club remains focused on serving our community, and supporting worthy causes. We will continue to search for other ways where we can make a difference, with the goal of direct benefit to those who have put themselves in harm’s way to treat during this COVID-19 pandemic situation. In respect to future FCC events, our annual golf event at Sandy Burr Country Club has been pushed back to Tuesday, September 9. Our June Boston harbor cruise event is still scheduled, but the date is subject to change. We are considering also supporting another event which has a focus on workers who have made a notable contribution to others during this crisis.

Please be safe, stay strong, and be there for others who need assistance.

Thank you.

Boston Foreign Commerce Club Board of Directors

