Students at the University of Minnesota who are part of the Biomedical Engineering program teamed up with M Health Fairview to design and make respirators, discussed the process for healthcare workers.

M Health Fairview had reached out to a professor in the biomedical engineering department, Karen Rackemann, and Rackemann teamed with students to design a prototype. The prototype was sealed and tested to make sure it could be made quickly and at a low price.

Professor Rackemann reached out to all of her biomedical engineering students to help with making these prototypes. Many of the students said this was the most rewarding project they have ever worked on and that they learned a lot from the process.

Their goal is to make 90,000 masks in the next few months. With that goal in mind, the students set out to find the right fabric, materials, and manufacturers to produce the masks quickly and cost-effectively.

On the University of Minnesota College of Science and Engineering website, M@ck Health is written: "The students created protective equipment prototypes, secured a local, food, and drug administration certified manufacturer, and found local manufacturers. The manufacturers then ended up being able to partner with the RedTux Innovations and Polair Plastics."

The students were able to create these masks for use at Minnesota hospitals within two weeks. RedTux Innovations and Polair Plastics have been able to produce between 10,000 and 15,000 masks per day. "James Kohler, a biomedical engineer writer said, "This was one of the most rewarding projects I have been a part of, and it’s a valuable experience that can talk about in nearly any interview for many years to come."