

# University of Minnesota researchers address unique COVID-19 challenges through innovation

*June 08, 2020*



Among supply chain challenges, limited numbers of personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical supplies, researchers and students at the University of Minnesota have been thinking up and implementing bold ideas to solve the unique problems presented during COVID-19.

Examples of medical devices and PPEs created by interdisciplinary teams at the University include the following:



The **Gown for U** project began late April when M Health Fairview Hospitals and Clinics developed a dire shortage of level one healthcare worker gowns. Requiring up to 10,000 gowns a day, the daunting task of designing and manufacturing gowns was undertaken by a team of 17 undergraduate biomedical engineering students, led by Professor **Steven Saliterman**

(<https://cse.umn.edu/bme/steven-s-saliterman>). Within two weeks, the design

was completed, material specified and production set into motion. The gown provides a barrier to infection, and can be easily donned and doffed. The University designed gown is available for open access and is being manufactured globally. The open source **design files** ([http://license.umn.edu/technologies/2020-357\\_a-gown-for-u-project-level-1-isolation-gown-for-emergency-use](http://license.umn.edu/technologies/2020-357_a-gown-for-u-project-level-1-isolation-gown-for-emergency-use)), which anyone can download and use for free, were posted online. **Read more about Gown for U** (<https://twin-cities.umn.edu/news-events/students-design-disposable-gowns>).

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## Media Contacts

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