

News Release

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Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, donates 150,000 Liters of Disinfectant to the State of Hesse

Darmstadt, Germany, April 2, 2020 – Due to the shortage of disinfectant caused by the coronavirus crisis, the science and technology company Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, has built up its own capacities to produce disinfectant in Darmstadt and Wiesbaden. The company is donating 150,000 liters of this to the state of Hesse.

“Germany has one of the best healthcare systems in the world. Nevertheless, we can only get through the crisis together. The availability of medical equipment and materials remains a pressing problem. I would therefore like to cordially thank the company for its donation, which is an important sign of solidarity and willingness to help. The disinfectant will primarily aid doctors and nurses who are working hard to care for people and save lives. Your support has a tremendous effect,” emphasized Volker Bouffier, Prime Minister of the State of Hesse.

Normally, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, does not manufacture disinfectant. “In a joint effort, we have built up our own capacities for this within a very short period of time and retooled production units within the scope of existing permits,” said Kai Beckmann, member of the Executive Board of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. “We are more than ready and willing to support the state of Hesse in protecting the medical personnel who are on the front lines of the current crisis. The population can only be effectively protected by well-equipped personnel. The raw materials ethanol and propanol for the manufacture of the disinfectant are regularly used in the production of pharmaceutical excipients as well as in research and development, among other things.



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The agent for disinfecting hands and surfaces is filled in 2.5 liter and 5 liter bottles, delivered to a central collection point in the state and distributed by the state authorities from there.

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About Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany

Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, a leading science and technology company, operates across healthcare, life science and performance materials. Around 57,000 employees work to make a positive difference to millions of people's lives every day by creating more joyful and sustainable ways to live. From advancing gene editing technologies and discovering unique ways to treat the most challenging diseases to enabling the intelligence of devices – the company is everywhere. In 2019, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, generated sales of € 16.2 billion in 66 countries.

The company holds the global rights to the name and trademark "Merck" internationally. The only exceptions are the United States and Canada, where the business sectors of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany operate as EMD Serono in healthcare, MilliporeSigma in life science, and EMD Performance Materials. Since its founding 1668, scientific exploration and responsible entrepreneurship have been key to the company's technological and scientific advances. To this day, the founding family remains the majority owner of the publicly listed company.