

News Release

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Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is Supporting Darmstadt in the COVID-19 Crisis

- **50,000 liters of urgently needed disinfectant donated**
- **40,000 FFP2 protective masks for front-line personnel made available free of charge**
- **5,000 of the masks will go to Brescia, Darmstadt's twin city in Italy**
- **Innovation Center uses 3D printing to make face shields**

Darmstadt, Germany, April 17, 2020 – Globally, bottlenecks currently exist with respect to the supply of FFP2 protective masks and disinfectant. Yet hospitals, emergency services and nursing homes in Darmstadt still have a significantly increased need in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis. For this reason, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, is donating 50,000 liters of disinfectant and 40,000 face masks to the city.

“We have been part of Darmstadt for more than 350 years. Therefore, it is absolutely clear that we will continue to support the city in the current COVID-19 crisis to the best of our ability,” said Kai Beckmann, member of the Executive Board of Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany. “Many of our approximately 12,000 employees in Darmstadt also live in the city. We can overcome the current crisis together by having everyone do what they do best,” said Beckmann. “For us as a company, this means tackling problems innovatively and creating progress that will benefit everyone. That's why in addition to our donations, we also support scientists by offering solutions to help them detect viruses and develop vaccines and therapies. We also continue to provide medicines to those who are among the most vulnerable in this pandemic – patients with serious diseases.”

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In addition, at its Innovation Center in Darmstadt, the company is currently producing 200 face shields every day using 3D printing processes. These are being donated to medical facilities in Germany and Italy. Normally, the 3D printers are used to manufacture prototypes of innovative products. The initiative is taking place in cooperation with the Makerspace Darmstadt Association, which is coordinating the production of the shields for Darmstadt and other areas of the Rhine-Main region.

Several weeks ago, Merck KGaA, Darmstadt, Germany, began producing disinfectants at its sites in Darmstadt and Wiesbaden – some of this production output is now being donated to the city. As previously reported, a further 150,000 liters went to the federal state of Hesse.

“We are very happy about this generous act of solidarity and assistance,” said Jochen Partsch, Mayor of Darmstadt. “Protective masks and disinfectant will help us to safeguard the lives and health of people in Darmstadt who are working to protect us from the virus and its consequences.”

The FFP2 respirators will be supplied to hospitals, inpatient and outpatient care facilities and emergency services. 5,000 masks will be sent to Brescia, Darmstadt's twin city in northern Italy - one of the regions most affected by COVID-19, announced Mayor Jochen Partsch. "For the distribution of the disinfectant, which is suitable for hands as well as surfaces, we will first carry out a demand survey so that we can forward the donation in a targeted manner".

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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.

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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.