

May 12, 2020

Mitsubishi Chemical Begins Supplying Plastic Gowns and Face Shields — Contributing to the Effort to Contain the Novel Coronavirus Infection —

Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation

Our thoughts and prayers are with those affected by COVID-19 and those who have lost their lives to this disease. We also extend our deepest gratitude and respect to all of the healthcare workers and other people working to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

To help address the serious supply shortages that COVID-19 has created in the medical community, Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation (MCC; Head office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; President: Masayuki Waga) has used the MCC Group's production technologies and expertise to develop plastic gowns and face shields and supply the items through its subsidiary, J-Film Corporation (Head office: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, President: Takeshi Isogimi).

Drawing on the guidance of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW), MCC developed the plastic gowns by making adjustments and improvements to polyethylene raincoats. In addition to creating thumbholes in the cuffs of the gown to prevent unintentional sleeve rolling, the company also added perforations on the back of the gown to enable tearaway removal and reduce the risk of contact transmission. The new gowns also weigh 100g or less each, which helps cut down on post-use waste. To create the new face shields, we incorporated technologies used in the production of polyester sheets for food trays and the folding ruling-line techniques we have developed through our film processing for cosmetics cases to create high-transparency shields with anti-fogging functionality. Not only are the face shields easy to cut out and assemble without any assistance, but their sizing can also be adjusted using elastic bands.

MCC's production framework is capable of manufacturing 20,000 plastic gowns and 40,000 face shields per month. We began donating gowns and face shields to several medical institutions in early May and now plan to start supplying the items to the MHLW and general medical institutions in mid-May.

MCC will continue to take the necessary measures in accordance with the government's action plan and work together with government bodies, industry groups, and other parties to help contain the spread of COVID-19.



The plastic gown



The face shield

Reference

The MCC Group offers a wide range of other products that can help prevent the spread of COVID-19, including the following. We will continue building supply frameworks so that we can provide the items quickly and reliably to those who need them.

Products	Uses
Acrylic sheet, Acrylite™ (Marketed outside Japan as SHINKOLITE™)	This high-transparency material is useful in preventing airborne droplet dispersion at front desks, teller windows, points of sale, and more.
Moisture transmission film, KTE	This film provides an effective liquid barrier but transmits water vapor, making it a useful outer layer for high-performance chemical protective clothing.

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