

# MEDIA ADVISORY



**For Immediate Release**

## **Bolger & O'Hearn donates 400 pounds of hand sanitizer for use at Lifespan hospitals throughout Rhode Island**

*Following World Health Organization's guidelines for making hand sanitizer, B&O taps their supply chain to donate hundreds of pounds of hand sanitizer to front line workers.*

(Fall River, Massachusetts, May 13, 2020.....) Today, [Bolger & O'Hearn](#) donated 400 pounds of hand sanitizer to Rhode Island's Lifespan health system. The donation was delivered this afternoon to Rhode Island Hospital in Providence.

The hand sanitizer will be used throughout the Lifespan system to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. The gift to Lifespan is the third large donation of hand sanitizer [Bolger & O'Hearn](#) has manufactured in its Fall River, Massachusetts, plant since the COVID-19 crisis began. To make these donations – which now represent over 13,000 pounds of hand sanitizer and would equal 26,000 individual 8 ounce bottles - B&O has diverted part of its manufacturing capability and tapped the company's supply chain.

In March, B&O donated over 200 gallons of hand sanitizer to the city of Fall River for use by the fire department and front line workers to support city operations. Bolger & O'Hearn has been located in Fall River since 1969.

In April, Bolger & O'Hearn donated over 700 pounds of hand sanitizer to Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, which is a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School. That donation of hand sanitizer was distributed in 4.6 ounce bottles to residents of underserved Boston communities, where hand sanitizer was either not available or affordable, to help fight the COVID-19 pandemic in New England.

Today's 400 pound donation went to [Lifespan](#), a five-partner, not-for-profit health system based in Providence, R.I. Formed in 1994, Lifespan includes The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University: [Rhode Island Hospital](#) and its [Hasbro Children's Hospital](#); [The Miriam Hospital](#); and [Bradley Hospital](#), [Newport Hospital](#) and [Gateway Healthcare](#).

Bolger & O'Hearn is best known for making specialty chemicals for the textile industry, including fluorine-free, high powered durable water repellents that are being used in the manufacturing of PPE.

"Bolger & O'Hearn is a long established business here in the greater Providence regional area and we see this as a small role we can play helping our community during the pandemic," said Murphy. "This is a

time for all of us to pull together and do what we can to help others, save lives and support those who are risking their lives to save ours. It's the least we can do."

B&O has plans to continue sourcing materials, as they can, to manufacture and donate hand sanitizer to front line workers in New England.

Bolger & O'Hearn is helping to fight the COVID-19 pandemic on other fronts, as well. This includes working closely with other leaders of the US textile industry to develop medical textiles and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including masks, gowns, bed coverings, hospital room drapes and more.

"In particular, we are seeing a high demand for the durable water repellents (DWRs) we have developed for high-end performance apparel brands," said Murphy. B&O's DWR's, which include fluorine-free Altapel F<sup>3</sup> and Stormproof/Breathable OmniBloq<sup>®</sup>, provide resistance to fluid penetration, splatter and soils and offer a much higher level of barrier protection for both woven and nonwoven textiles than standard DWR's.

In addition, employees at B&O are making masks from test fabric that has been treated at the plant with B&O's high powered barrier DWR's. Those masks are being given to employees, family, friends, customers and area first responders.

Bolger & O'Hearn is known and respected throughout the industries it serves as a trusted partner and developer of innovative, highly-effective chemical products. A [bluesign system partner](#), B&O is also known for developing chemical products based on environmentally-compliant materials and technologies. Most of their chemistries are water-based, and Boger & O'Hearn strives to continually improve the health, safety, and environmental profiles of the chemistries they develop.

## **MEDIA NOTES**

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#### More About:

##### **Bolger & O’Hearn**

Since its founding in 1969, Bolger and O’Hearn has been selling uniquely efficient and consistently high-quality chemicals. Its personalized service approach has been the pillar of its success. From its traditional beginnings in the textile industry, B&O has expanded into paper coatings, non-wovens and other non-textile manufactured products, all of which find applications in a wide range of industries. Today its diverse and comprehensive product line – totaling over 2,500 products – is sold and distributed globally. Committed to a zero-carbon future, B&O currently produces its products using renewable energy. The solar voltaic array on its facilities allow it to displace more than 100,000 pounds of carbon each year. B&O is also a bluesign® System Partner. To learn more, go to [bolgerohearn.com](http://bolgerohearn.com).

You can learn more about Bolger & O’Hearn at [www.bolgerohearn.com](http://www.bolgerohearn.com)

And you can follow Bolger & O’Hearn on Twitter at @BolgerandOHearn

##### **Lifespan**

**Lifespan** is a five-partner not-for-profit health system based in Providence, R.I. Formed in 1994, Lifespan includes three teaching hospitals of The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University: **Rhode Island Hospital** and its **Hasbro Children’s Hospital**; **The Miriam Hospital**; and **Bradley Hospital**, the nation’s first psychiatric hospital for children. It also includes **Newport Hospital**, a community hospital offering a broad range of health services, and **Gateway Healthcare**, the state’s largest provider of community behavioral health care. Lifespan teaching hospitals are among the top recipients in the country of research funding from the National Institutes of Health. The hospitals received \$92 million in external research funding in fiscal 2019. All Lifespan-affiliated partners are charitable organizations that depend on support from the community to provide programs and services.

##### **Rhode Island Hospital**

Founded in 1863, Rhode Island Hospital in Providence, R.I., is a private, not-for-profit hospital and is the principal teaching hospital of The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University. A major trauma center for southeastern New England, the hospital is dedicated to being on the cutting edge of medicine and research. It is home to Hasbro Children’s Hospital, the state’s only facility dedicated to pediatric care. Last year, Rhode Island Hospital received nearly \$60 million in external research funding. For more information on Rhode Island Hospital, visit [www.rhodeislandhospital.org](http://www.rhodeislandhospital.org), follow us on Twitter @RIHospital or like us on Facebook.