

HCR Home Care seeks volunteers to sew fabric masks

Fabric Masks

ROCHESTER — HCR Home Care, which serves clients in the four-county GLOW region, has enlisted community volunteers to sew fabric masks to help fortify its own supply of surgical masks for field staff.

The washable/reusable cotton masks will help meet the state requirement for masks to be worn by HCR field staff during the COVID-19 crisis — especially important for visits to the vulnerable populations HCR serves, the home health agency said in a news release.

The fabric masks are different from the N95 masks needed for hospitals and other health care workers.

The fabric masks being made by volunteers are for field staff including home health aides, nurses, therapists and social workers.

“HCR is working with volunteers in our local communities to ensure an adequate supply of face masks during the coronavirus crisis,” said Laura Martini, RN, BSN, COS-C, administrator, HCR Home Care. “While we have not run out of masks, we expect a limited supply due to the mandate that all field staff wear a protective mask. Fabric masks are a last resort, but this effort will help us further protect our patients and our employees.”

So far, volunteers in the Finger Lakes and North Country have created approximately 150 cotton masks. HCR expects to have another 500 made by the end of this week, and its goal is to ultimately have between 1,500 and 2,000 masks, enough for every field worker to have two masks each.

HCR is looking for more volunteer sewers to make these cotton masks. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Laura Bartolotti, HCR’s director of administrative operations and communications, at LBartolotti@hcrhealth.com.

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