

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE
**STRATFORD ECONOMIC RECOVERY TASK
FORCE BEGINS DISTRIBUTION OF
PPE MASKS FOR LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES**

Local Businesses Encouraged to Register Online to Receive Mask Allotment

Stratford, ON – May 15, 2020 **Following on the announcement last week of the Stratford City Centre's BIA purchase of over 18,000 face masks, the BIA, the Stratford Economic Response and Recovery Task Force is planning for the distribution of the personal protection equipment (PPE).**

As a first stage in helping to prepare the city's small businesses to reopen in a safe manner, masks will be distributed at no cost in bundles of 20, 40 and 60 units. Festival City Marketplace has agreed to allow the Recovery Task Force team to set up mask distribution outside the Harts entrance in the Mall next Tuesday, May 19 and Thursday, May 21 from 12 until 4pm. Businesses are encouraged to only take what they will need to get reopened. In order to organize pick-up, businesses are asked to complete an order form on Eventbrite at following link: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ppe-mask-pickup-for-stratford-small-businesses-tickets-105391835818?ref=estw> Once completed, business owners will be sent instructions on how and when to pick up the masks.

These masks were purchased, in bulk, with the support of a local family who has made donations in both Stratford & St. Marys. The Stratford City Centre BIA is providing these masks to businesses in Stratford at no cost. More information can be found on the BIA [website](http://www.stratfordcitycentre.ca/index) <http://www.stratfordcitycentre.ca/index> as well as on the Stratford Economic Response and Recovery Task Force page <https://www.investstratford.com/stratford-economic-recovery-response-task-force>

In addition to this initial resource, many local businesses have PPE available for purchase. The list is being updated often. Businesses and individuals are encouraged to shop local and a [PPE local supplier list, assembled by the BIA, is available here:](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Mwc7onSHPrm3iPTRpkaAtKRijlyq5n_bK6s-YxDgcL8/edit?ts=5ebaf36f#gid=0) https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Mwc7onSHPrm3iPTRpkaAtKRijlyq5n_bK6s-YxDgcL8/edit?ts=5ebaf36f#gid=0

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