



*Tony Evers*  
Governor

*Peter W. Barca*  
Secretary of Revenue

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 21, 2020

CONTACT: Patty Mayers, Communications Director  
(608) 266-2300 or [DORCommunications@wisconsin.gov](mailto:DORCommunications@wisconsin.gov)

## **Waterloo's Grunewald among 9 DOR staff working to get protective equipment to emergency staff on COVID-19 frontlines**

Waterloo resident Brittany Grunewald is one of nine Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) employees working to get personal protective equipment (PPE) in the hands of medical personnel on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The nine came to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) at the Department of Military Affairs in Madison late last month to join staff from several state agencies forming a PPE triage team. The team processes offers coming into the SEOC from businesses and individuals wanting to help fill critical shortages caused by the pandemic.

"It's extraordinary to see the generosity and dedication people are putting into the effort as a whole," said Grunewald. "Everyone is so willing to help and appreciative for the joint effort of all involved."

Offers coming into the SEOC are a mix of donations, proposals to sell and manufacturers willing to retool their production lines to make PPE. The triage team has processed several offers so far, but more is needed. The biggest needs are for gloves, foot coverings, thermometers, Tyvek coveralls, face shields, isolation gowns, face-surgical masks and N-95 particulate respirators.

Demand is constantly changing, but Grunewald says the team is upbeat and adapts to do whatever is necessary.

"Everyone does a great job of adjusting on the fly to make sure we are doing everything we can to help with the pandemic efficiently and effectively."

Grunewald and her DOR co-workers do initial vetting of offers coming into the SEOC. Offers go through the vetting process to verify credibility. Those approved are forwarded to the procurement team for further vetting. There are individuals impersonating real businesses and using other means to take advantage of the current situation, making the vetting process a vital first step.

Once they approve an offer and complete any purchasing requirements, the PPE is shipped to a central warehouse. At the warehouse, staff inspect the PPE before shipping it to locations throughout the state for circulation. They expedite smaller PPE offers—for example, 20 or fewer boxes of gloves—by directly connecting donors with healthcare providers and emergency personnel near them. Bypassing the warehouse and fast-tracking these deliveries means PPE gets into the right hands sooner, which is especially critical as COVID-19 case numbers continue to rise.

Anyone with PPE to donate, sell or manufacturers able to modify their production lines to make PPE can contact the SEOC at the [COVID-19 Supply & Resources Offers website](#).

###

