



COVID-19

# Five Action Items Your Healthcare Supply Chain Can Do Right Now to **Improve Resiliency**

As COVID-19 continues to stress-test the resiliency of the U.S. health system, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) has issued guidance that healthcare distribution is part of the country's critical infrastructure. Its workers carry special responsibility to uphold essential services and resist disruption.



1.

## Work together on common challenges

Healthcare is a special industry where regional competitors work together in the interest of serving their collective community without disruption. A collegial sharing of resources to backfill backorders has long been in the DNA of these caregiving businesses; that posture is critical in these times.

In addition to regional collaboration, broader initiatives such as **this one by risk management company Resilinc** and **GHX's COVID-19 Information Center** have launched to connect healthcare organizations to exchange critical supplies.

2.

## Forge relationships with businesses outside healthcare

As supply shortages loom around the world, we are bearing witness to formidable creativity in the industry. Rising to unprecedented challenges, companies outside healthcare are evaluating how their resources and expertise can contribute to the relief effort in hospitals around the world.

- **Distilleries are producing sanitizer** using high-proof alcohol.
- **GM and Tesla are retrofitting their production plants** to shore up supply on ventilators.
- **Ford is teaming up with 3M** to produce respirators and ventilators.
- A **Canadian exhibit booth manufacturer is producing safe screening booths** for local hospitals.
- **Trinity Health secured a deal with Detroit Sewn** to produce 50,000 cotton masks.

Forecasting your supply needs proactively and engaging businesses in new and innovative ways can add to the resiliency of your supply chain by safeguarding against a looming disruption.

### Action Item

Open a dialog with your counterparts on a regional level. Hold a roundtable to discuss pressing issues and possible opportunities for collaboration. Perform an operational SWOT analysis so that you can more effectively respond to emerging shortfalls on a regional level.

### Action Item

Get creative and work with your business community's BIA or chamber of commerce to vet out possible solutions.



### 3.

## Connect with your professional network

No man is an island. The healthcare supply chain industry is rife with professional problem solvers and several leading organizations are using their networks to address immediate needs and problems.

**IDN Summit** is facilitating connections between today's supply chain leaders, GPOs, and suppliers to overcome potential supply chain disruptions and continuity concerns resulting from COVID-19 with a living document of **COVID-19 supplier offerings**.

Additionally, **Health Industry Distributors Association (HIDA)**, **ECRI**, and **AHRMM in association with AHA** have each developed resource centers to keep its members up to date.

### Action Item

Stay engaged with your professional affiliations. Sign up for their newsletter if you haven't already. Visit the members section and check for member-driven initiatives.

# 4.

## Stretch your resources

Exceptional circumstances call for exceptional measures. Agencies are acting fast to provide useful recommendations and strategies to help stretch limited supplies or expand your supply pool.

- The CDC has **published a series of strategies** to optimize supply of N95 respirators, as well as options for alternate sourcing with near-commensurate masks if supply sources run dry.
- The **FDA has published recommendations** on gown and surgical mask preservation strategies.
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released **an expanded list of almost 200 EPA-registered disinfectant products** that qualified for use against COVID-19. This list is being updated to include additional disinfectants that meet the criteria.

### Action Item

Visit these sites regularly for updated guidelines on resource preservation guidelines.



5.

## Stay informed and focused on recovery

Beyond the headlines, foremost industry experts are focused on pragmatism and measured recovery. The time is right to prepare – not panic – by building your knowledgebase with actionable information.

For example, AHRMM hosted a webinar entitled **Solution Sharing Open Forum: The Health Care Supply Chain's Response to COVID-19**, a moderated round table discussing internal and upstream supply chain approaches and innovative solutions to combat COVID-19. Reputable resources are the critical support structure you should have access to so you are able to navigate these uncharted waters.

Tecsys stands with you as you carry out your critical role in the fight against COVID-19. As an entrusted solution provider to the healthcare market with more than 40 U.S. health systems using our software to run their supply chains, we are in this together. In these trying times, we remain ready to support you, help find bridge solutions, make connections with one another, and provide resources that will make your supply chain more resilient than it has ever been.

## Action Item

Go to [www.tecsys.com/covid19resources](http://www.tecsys.com/covid19resources) and bookmark the page.

We will be updating this landing page with any webinars and informational content that could be of use so that you are equipped with resources that provide guidance in these uncertain times.

# About **Tecsys**

Since our founding in 1983, so much has changed in supply chain technology. But one thing has remained consistent across industries, geographies and decades – by transforming their supply chains, good organizations can become great.

Our solutions and services create clarity from operational complexity with end-to-end supply chain visibility. Our customers reduce operating costs, improve customer service and uncover optimization opportunities.

We believe that visionary organizations should have the opportunity to thrive. And they should not have to sacrifice their core values and principles as they grow. Our approach to supply chain transformation enables growing organizations to realize their aspirations.



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