



Holyoke Community College Police Capt. Dale Brown stacks boxes of supplies from science and medicine classes that the college is donating to local hospitals. *Submitted photo*

Holyoke Community College donates medical class supplies to hospitals

In response to requests from area hospitals experiencing shortages of supplies, Holyoke Community College this week prepared to donate surgical masks, isolation gowns, exam gloves and other personal protection equipment from its health science programs to help frontline medical professionals as they battle the coronavirus.

HCC's Emergency Response Team has been coordinating with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency on the collection of supplies from the college's Health Sciences division and its Division of Business and Workforce Development.

Late last week, the Western Massachusetts Economic Development Council sent out a list of personal protection equipment that Baystate Medical Center and other area hospitals are "in desperate need of."

"I know we have all been looking

for meaningful ways to help out during these stressful times of Covid-19," said the message, which was sent on behalf of WestMass President and CEO Rick Sullivan. "Our frontline medical professionals and first responders need our help."

The items HCC has been collecting include boxes of isolation gowns, exam gloves, masks, goggles, hand sanitizer, and microbial wipes from its nursing, radiological technology, veterinary technician, biology, forensic science and certified nursing assistant programs.

HCC Police Capt. Dale Brown spent an afternoon conducting an inventory of these supplies at the Campus Police station. He said he expected that a representative from MEMA would be picking up the items on campus sometime on March 24. MEMA will then in turn coordinate delivery to area hospitals, he said.