



News Release
Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council

In Interview, HLAC Board Member Says Reusable Protective Gear 'Very, Very Safe'

***'Reusable PPE can be washed, sterilized and reused
75 to 100 times'***

PLAINFIELD, IL - April 16, 2020 - A member of the board of directors of the Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC) recently weighed the advantages of reusable personal protection equipment (PPE) in healthcare facilities over disposable PPE, even in times of urgency.

In an article in [The Star](#), "Is it time to take another look at reusable protective gear in the wake of COVID-19?," the HLAC board member, Jeff Courey, said reusables can help fill the gap amid the looming shortages of disposable supplies and that reusables can go much further in treating the expected surge in coronavirus cases in the coming weeks and months.

"Since there's not enough to go around ... every reusable one you get here, it's the equivalent of 75 to 100 of the disposable ones," Courey said. In the article, Courey was interviewed in his role as the president and CEO of Montreal-based [George Courey Inc.](#) (GCI), a Montreal-based company that specializes in producing reusable isolation gowns, surgical gowns and scrubs.

Courey has been an HLAC board member since 2017. [HLAC](#) is a nonprofit organization that inspects and accredits laundries processing textiles for hospitals, nursing homes and other healthcare facilities.

In The Star article, Courey said that while it might instinctively feel that disposable PPE is safer, it's important to understand supply chains to appreciate how safety and quality can differ.

According to the article, the vast majority of disposable PPE is made in China and southeast Asia, where it must be manufactured, packaged, shipped and warehoused before being delivered to the end user.

"There are so many opportunities for that gown to be potentially contaminated," Courey said. "Our gowns are inspected, checked and sterilized locally after every single use." He added that, instead of being thrown out after each patient encounter, reusable PPE can be washed and reused 75 to 100 times.



Courey said his company's gowns are sold to healthcare laundries where they're processed - sterilized, packaged and sent back to the hospital - with minimal human contact.

"They're very, very safe," he said.

HLAC-accredited laundries process healthcare textiles based on the highest standards for patient safety and infection prevention. These HLAC Accreditation [Standards](#) - which have been documented, published and professionally recognized - have been developed based on federal regulations and guidelines as well as best industry practices.

HLAC accreditation, which is good for three years, means that a laundry meets HLAC's standards. Accreditation affirms that a laundry organization that processes healthcare linens has successfully passed an inspection of the following: its facility, policies and procedures, training programs, and its relationships with its healthcare customers.

For more information on HLAC, visit www.hlacnet.org

About HLAC

The Healthcare Laundry Accreditation Council (HLAC) is a nonprofit organization formed for the purpose of inspecting and accrediting laundries processing healthcare textiles for hospitals, nursing homes and other healthcare facilities. Visit www.hlacnet.org and on Twitter [@NewsHlac](https://twitter.com/NewsHlac).

HLAC Information: Regina Baras 855-277-HLAC (4522); rbaras@hlacnet.org
Media Information: Ken Swoyer 847-424-1256; kswoyer@hlacnet.org
www.hlacnet.org

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