

HARLEM'S KEEPER OF COVID-19 SUPPLIES

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My Role: It's my job to make sure our staff on the front lines have the necessary products and supplies on hand they need to give our patients the optimal care they deserve. In this time of crisis, that means being available day or night.

There is a need to be more proactive and available during this pandemic. During the past two weeks, our hospitals needed to open six surge areas due to the number of patients increasing because of COVID-19.

Impact of COVID-19: It was my department's responsibility to make sure these new areas had the needed supplies for the patients. We needed to build racks of product to make sure the floors had the supplies to treat the patients. Each rack has close to 200 needed items, so it was quite a task. Also, the racks needed to be assembled ASAP, so the nurses could provide the necessary care to our patients. I have a great team and this could not have been accomplished without their support.

I now also have the responsibility of getting clinicians the necessary PPE. The doctors and nurses are on the frontline, so I want to make sure they were well protected while treating the patients. The health system's centralized supply chain team was instrumental in getting us the N95 masks and other PPE. However, in addition to what Central Office supplied, I also worked with vendors in getting additional gowns and PPE for the clinicians. I wanted to make sure we always had enough PPE for their protection.

Why I'm on the Frontlines: Throughout my upbringing, I was always taught to help others whenever possible because you never know when you will need help in return. The main lesson for me is that this crisis has made me realize how fragile life is and to make sure I am extra kind to people.

