

Medical protective clothing: demand and innovation spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic

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Abstracts

The recent outbreak of COVID-19 has highlighted the crucial role played by medical protective clothing in ensuring the safety of health care workers, the patients they treat and the general public on a daily basis. Indeed, medical protective clothing and other items of personal protective equipment (PPE) are crucial to preventing the transmission of COVID-19. Global demand for medical protective clothing and PPE has surged to unprecedented levels and this has placed immense pressure on supply chains. One outcome is that nonwoven fabrics used in the manufacture of single-use protective items such as face masks and gowns are in exceptionally high demand. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has prompted several of the industry's key players to innovate, and to boost supplies of fabrics used in the manufacture of medical protective clothing--including nonwovens. There has been a particular focus on the rapid development of antiviral finishes, and on the development of fabrics treated with such finishes for use in the manufacture of reusable medical protective clothing. This report provides a wealth of information on the market for medical protective clothing and the latest innovations in this sector. Topics explored in the report include: purposes of medical protective clothing; types of medical protective clothing; essential properties of medical protective clothing; materials used in the manufacture of medical protective clothing; medical protective clothing and the prevention of cross-infection; standards for medical protective clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE); and the market for medical protective clothing with particular reference to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the market. Also, the report examines a variety of innovations in materials for medical protective clothing, it analyses some of the latest antiviral finishes for medical protective clothing, and it provides an outlook for the future.

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Extia Protect
TrustShield
Argar: AVirTex fabrics

Ascend Performance Materials (Ascend): Acteev Protect

Burlington: Isolite, Maxima, MaxPro and XALT fabrics

Carrington Textiles (Carrington): antiviral and antibacterial fabrics for medical apparel and workwear

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