

CEO Message: Supply chain in the time of COVID-19

In the end, it often comes down to supply chain.

Just as Alexander the Great's superior supply chain strategy contributed to his campaign success in Afghanistan, Germany's inability to get goods through the British naval blockade of WWI became a defining factor in the eventual Allied victory.

Supply chain will play an equally pivotal role as the world responds to the COVID-19 pandemic – and while Erie St. Clair's hospitals entered this crisis well-prepared, it is still early days.

TransForm houses the region's pandemic response supply and the inventory was re-stocked last fall with four weeks of essential goods ready-to-go. Every week, our Supply Chain team participates in a province-wide conference call and we're working with each of you to respond to your hospital's specific needs.

That said, there are shortages out there that are growing in proportion to the crisis we face. It's getting harder and harder to get respirators, swabs and PPE, for instance – and while we've worked miracles before (remember when Hurricane Maria knocked out Baxter's Puerto Rican Mini-Bag manufacturing plant in 2017?) nothing compares to what we're facing today.

As such, it's all hands on deck at TransForm as we work with our existing vendors while searching for new ones, competing with literally hundreds of thousands of other organizations around the world in a bid to get the supplies you are going to need.

Through it all, our Service Desk remains staffed, IT support remains on-site and our warehouse remains open; it's a far cry from "business as usual" but it's business nonetheless.

There are unexpected champions who are rising to the occasion. Car makers are retooling to manufacture ventilators; distilleries and perfume companies are producing hand sanitizer and fashion retailers are making masks and hospital gowns, opening up new sourcing opportunities.

TransForm is talking to all of them, doing everything in our power to keep your carts stocked, your systems running and your people safe.

We can't promise that we'll be able to in every instance in the weeks and months ahead - but we can promise that we'll keep trying until we do, if for no other reason than we're all in this together. Our successes in supply chain will contribute to your successes on the front lines of healthcare, and like the Allies in WWI? We all need that victory.