

CURRENTS

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Alethea Baldwin fills a bottle of hand sanitizer that will be distributed to a fellow shipbuilder. Photo by Lena Wallace

“The beauty of a distillery is that we make a disinfectant,” said Owen King, the head distiller. “We normally distill between 150 and 160 proof, but when this pandemic hit, we distilled higher up to about 195 proof, which is 85 to 90% alcohol. We combined the alcohol with hydrogen peroxide and glycerin to make hand sanitizer.”

A designated shipyard team will pick up the jugs of hand sanitizer from the distillery and bring them to NNS, where teammates will fill 4 ounce bottles for distribution. For the safety of shipbuilders, 4 ounce bottles cannot be near hot work or go shipboard due to flammability. However, 2 ounce bottles of hand sanitizer are currently in the procurement process for shipboard usage.

Alethea Baldwin, a tool room clerk, said all of the disinfectant products are important. “I think the cleaner that we can keep our workspaces, the less cases we will have,” she said.

Disinfectant products will be available at the distribution areas listed below:

- Bldg. 64 (Tradewinds café)
- Bldg. 78 (Powerhouse)
- Bldg. 227 (Applebee’s)
- Bldg. 4901
- Bldg. 4930

Designated employees are responsible for distribution and collection at all sites. Shipbuilders are asked to return empty bottles to the locations for refills. Empty bottles should not be thrown away.

For more information, contact **Valerie Bentley** via email or call 688-9411. Watch a video on MyNNS to learn about the project, hear from the team and see how the hand sanitizer is made.

Preventing the Spread of COVID-19



Newport News Shipbuilding is distributing hand sanitizer made by Ironclad Distillery Co. to employees. The additional hand sanitizer is the latest defense to help shipbuilders combat the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19), joining an arsenal of disinfectant spray bottles, pump sprayers and wipes.

“People from all walks of life rely on us, whether it’s supporting our national security or local businesses,” said **Bryan Ransom**, a makeup supervisor who distributes cleaning supplies. “Any way we can help, we will.”

Supporting two fronts, NNS distributes cleaning supplies to shipbuilders around the clock while helping the distillery, located on 23rd Street in Newport News, stay in business.

Changes to No-Drive Times

To allow for social distancing as employees travel throughout the shipyard, some no-drive times at Newport News Shipbuilding will be extended from 10 minutes to 20 minutes starting Monday, April 13.

No-drive times are:

- 6:50 until 7:10 a.m.
- Noon until 12:10 p.m. (no change)

- 3:20 until 3:40 p.m.
- 11:50 p.m. until 12:10 a.m.

During these times, operating vehicles or bicycles is prohibited. Employees are not required to remain in designated walkways during no-drive times. However, they must adhere to all posted signage and maintain situational awareness. For more information, see the Environmental Health and Safety notice.

Need More Information?

Newport News Shipbuilding provides daily updates at nns.huntingtoningalls.com/411. The Employee Information Phone Line (1-877-871-2058) also provides up-to-date information about shipyard operations.

Employees call the Human Resources and Labor Relations Hotline (1-844-243-8749) or can email COVID-19@hii-nns.com for Coronavirus questions or concerns. Shipbuilders are encouraged to email ideas@hii-nns.com with ideas to help NNS prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Shipbuilders Encouraged to Donate Blood

The American Red Cross is facing a severe blood shortage due to an unprecedented number of blood drive cancellations during the Coronavirus outbreak.

Newport News Shipbuilding-sponsored blood drives scheduled for April and May have been canceled due to American Red Cross staffing modifications. However, employees are encouraged to donate at an off-site location. To find and schedule an appointment at an off-site location or for more information on COVID-19 and blood donation, visit the Red Cross' website or call 1-800-733-2767.

During liberal leave, NNS employees can charge off-site donation time to job order 0874X with the following considerations:

- The employee's supervisor must approve charge to department overhead.
- Employee can charge a maximum of 1.5 hours to this charge for a blood donation.
- The charge cannot be used if it results in an employee billing overtime for pay period.

"One of the most important things you can do to ensure we don't have another health care crisis on top of coronavirus is give now," said **Judy Fundak** (K18). "The real winners are the patients in need of blood. The heroes are the volunteer blood donors who make their lifesaving treatment a reality."

NNS Honored for STEM Education Efforts

Newport News Shipbuilding was recently honored for contributions to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) initiatives and education during STARBASE Victory's inaugural Launching Futures STEM education awards dinner.

STARBASE Victory is a nonprofit funded through a partnership between Portsmouth Public Schools and the community. It provides opportunities for all of the district's fourth, fifth and sixth graders to engage in STEM and prepare for the future.

NNS received the Sustained Corporate Support of STEM Education Award for SEEKnns outreach programs like Girls with Engineering Minds in Shipbuilding (GEMS) and Young Men in Engineering (YME). NNS also partnered with the city of Newport News and Old Dominion University to create the Brooks Crossing Innovation and Opportunity Center, which supports STEM education. **Xavier Beale**, vice president of Trades, accepted the award on behalf of the company.

"Newport News Shipbuilding is so honored to be a part of such an innovative STEM program for students," said **Gary Artybridge Jr.**, Community Relations manager. "As a consistent supporter of STARBASE Victory, it has been gratifying to see the impact this program has on students pursuing STEM-related careers."

Consistency in Allocating Costs

Charging similar costs as indirect on one contract but direct on another contract is a Cost Accounting Standards (CAS) noncompliance.

A CAS noncompliance could result in downward contract price adjustments, cash withholds and other detrimental financial impacts to the company. For this reason, it is important to be consistent in charging labor and material costs.

Government Finance Relations (O74) can provide assistance in determining the correct way to charge.

HRT Temporarily Stops Fare Collection

Shipbuilders who use Hampton Roads Transit will not have to pay fares until June 10, unless the policy is modified or rescinded by HRT. The change is an effort to limit social contact by avoiding exposure to fare boxes and limiting interaction with operators. HRT encourages riders to wear face masks and enter and exit at the back of the bus.

Customers with seven- or 30-day passes (activated prior to April 10) may request a pass replacement for the days lost, if appropriate. HRT will not provide a pass replacement if passes have been purchased, but not activated. For more information, visit gohrt.com or call (757) 222-6100.

Registration Open for Virtual NNS 5K

Due to measures put in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the 2020 Newport News Shipbuilding 5K is a virtual event. Participants can complete the 5K from home the weekend of June 6. Employees, friends and family members can participate. Those who register, complete the race and post their time will have a chance of winning a prize. Visit nns.huntingtongalls.com/events/5k to register.

Visit myquadmedical.com/HII to sign up for the Go the Extra Mile Wellness Challenge and receive weekly emails, a training plan and tips leading up to the event. Anyone who logs at least 10 miles while training will be entered for a chance to win a FitBit Versa. All employees and family members on an HII health plan are eligible for the challenge, which begins Monday, April 20.

Washington Avenue Improvement Project

The city of Newport News has started a project to improve Washington Avenue between 34th and 50th streets. Sidewalk repairs are underway. Asphalt milling and paving operations are scheduled to begin the next week. Impacted on-street parking will be marked with "no parking" signs at least two days before work begins. For more information, see the Distribution A memo.