

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

Turnbull & Asser, shirtmaker to Prince Charles, now making medical scrubs for UK's National Health Service

April 17, 2020



U.K.'s Turnbull & Asser has pivoted from shirtmaking to producing scrubs for medical personnel working for the National Health Service on the front lines of the COVID-19 coronavirus containment efforts. Image credit: Turnbull & Asser

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

British shirtmaker Turnbull & Asser is doing its turn for COVID-19 relief with a pivot to making scrubs for the United Kingdom's National Health Service as it battles the spread of the coronavirus.

Subscribe to **Luxury Daily**
Plus: Just released
State of Luxury 2019 **Save \$246 ▶**

The 135-year-old company, known for high-quality shirts worn by the Prince of Wales, celebrities and professionals, has reconfigured its workrooms to follow social-distancing and safety guidelines. The United Kingdom has one of the highest COVID-19 death tolls and cases after the United States and Italy.

"With the strain placed on these incredible individuals and this national institution, more staff are being called up, and with supply chains compromised, demand for appropriate medical attire far outstrips supply," said Jonathan Baker, Turnbull managing director, in a statement.

"As a British brand that has endured some of history's most testing times, we understand the importance of serving a nation and are determined to make a positive contribution to the cause," he said.

"In support of those on the frontline, we are now in the process of producing thousands of much-needed protective garments for the NHS, proudly Made in England."

Cut from a different cloth

Turnbull will produce an initial batch of 4,000 scrubs for NHS medical personnel dealing with COVID-19 patients.

The company has put together a team of machinists equipped with personal protective equipment to return to its Gloucester facility.

The workrooms have been reconfigured to have employees sit at a distance on new machines suited for tailoring the NHS scrubs.

New machines were required since Turnbull creates luxury shirting on machines not geared to handling production

of the more utilitarian, medical-grade scrubs used by doctors, nurses and hospital officials.

Turnbull also tapped its suppliers and manufacturers of fabrics that meet the health and safety requirements of the NHS.



A completed scrub from shirtmaker Turnbull & Asser for the United Kingdom's National Health Service. Image credit: Turnbull & Asser

For Turnbull, this pivot is in line with its history to step up at times of national emergencies.

The company supplied garments to British troops fighting on the frontlines of the first world war and also supplied Prime Minister Winston Churchill with his famous wardrobe, including the Siren suit, during the second world war.

"Turnbull has successfully endured many times of hardship and has never been shy to acknowledge the contribution British manufacturing has to make during such episodes," Mr. Baker said.

With the COVID-19 crisis, the company has equally committed to going the distance.

"We are collectively working on several other initiatives in support of the NHS, key workers and those who are most vulnerable during this difficult time," Mr. Baker said.

"We believe compassion is key to overcoming this historic hurdle, and we hope all employees of the National Health Service can feel truly appreciated for all their hard work," he said. "In turning our hand to the production of scrubs, we hope to do our bit in expressing that gratitude."