

# SUCCESS STORY



**COFA** CARREFOUR QUÉBÉCOIS  
DE LA FABRICATION ADDITIVE

## PANTHERA DENTAL HELPS QUEBEC HOSPITALS COPE WITH PANDEMIC

Panthera Dental is a one-of-a-kind, family-owned company. It specializes in the design and manufacturing of state-of-the-art products using exclusive CAD/CAM processes, automated manufacturing and superior materials for dental restorations, cranio-maxillofacial surgery and the treatment of sleep-disordered breathing.

As soon as the pandemic began, Panthera Dental ventured into the unknown to support a hospital in the Quebec City area. Its goal was to design and produce face shields using 3D printing. The oncology dentistry department at Hôtel-Dieu de Québec reached out to Panthera Dental, and Panthera answered the call. Its team went to work and proposed eight single-use face shield prototypes to CHU de Québec managers in under 24 hours.

Face shield base



## A CRY FROM THE HEART HEARD ACROSS QUEBEC

The request to Panthera Dental attracted media attention. During an appearance on Mario Dumont's show, Panthera Dental asked the Quebec population for help. All 3D printer owners were invited to participate in a general effort to manufacture face shields. Panthera Dental promised to provide the raw material. The resulting buzz attracted printers and volunteers and created the world's largest decentralized manufacturing facility. Not only did they alleviate face shield shortages while lending valuable support to the CHU de Québec, but they also helped the company maintain its activities and prevent job losses in difficult times.

## RISING TO A CONSIDERABLE CHALLENGE

Eager to share its 3D printing skills with Quebec hospitals, the Panthera Dental team pushed the limits of its knowledge and took on a thousand new challenges. It reviewed its factory's supply chain, it obtained a sufficient amount of raw material to manufacture its face shields, it reorganized its work space, it supplied materials to 3D printer owners, it coordinated deliveries and complied with all hospital standards and expectations. The entire Panthera Dental team demonstrated an exceptional capacity for innovation and adaptation.

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*“Part of the Covid3Dqc group’s production was dedicated to the delivery of products to meet local demands and the other part was earmarked for our Panthera Dental collaboration. This collaboration was created to provide various Quebec hospitals with far greater efficiency. We thank the regional coordinators, and we thank the Panthera Dental team.”*

– **Marc-Olivier Girard,**  
In Charge of the Covid3Dqc Group

*“The project’s main purpose was to preserve as many jobs as possible within our large Panthera family. Our new headquarters’ factory, which is normally 100% automated, was completely transformed to create disinfection and face shield assembly stations in an effort to meet critical medical equipment needs. For our team and our partners, one thing is certain: Mission Accomplished.”*

– **Gabriel Robichaud,**  
President and CEO  
of Panthera Dental

## AN ACCESSIBLE SOLUTION TO THE SHORTAGE

Panthera Dental’s solution provided rapid measures while industrial production capacities caught up. Press-made plastic face shields are less expensive and can be produced in much higher numbers. It nonetheless took three to six months to set up factory production that could meet the health system’s demands. Panthera Dental’s involvement at this critical time helped protect healthcare workers a created a well-tailored solution that could be replicated at the industrial level. The interest generated by the initiative also promoted 3D printing technology to the general public and led to new and promising partnerships for Panthera Dental.

## TEAMWORK: THE KEY TO SUCCESS

Between April and June 2020, Panthera Dental provided hospitals with over 250,000 face shields and donated another 3,000 to non-profit organizations, including the *Regroupement des Auberges du cœur* and the *Société Saint-Vincent de Paul*. This tour de force would not have been possible without the collaboration of everyone involved. It was a collective effort, inspired by our shared sense of solidarity. Without the collaboration of companies like Voxel Factory, Bodycad, Dicom and COVID3Dqc, a group that includes over 450 designers, engineers, teachers, students and 3D printing enthusiasts, Panthera Dental would never have been able to provide so many face shields to so many doctors, nurses and healthcare providers, all of whom could now spend time at the bedside of COVID patients.

