



A vital part of Team Decon includes a four-student team from TTUHSC: first-year medical students Abdurrahman Kharbat and Ranger Kile, second-year medical student Mahmud Alkul and graduate medical sciences student Habib Abla.

Kharbat, the student team leader, said the students collect the PPE from TTUHSC and UMC and triple wrap each piece in biohazard bags. The students then transport the sealed PPE to decontamination laboratories located at the Reese Technology Center where it placed inside a large machine that vaporizes hydrogen peroxide and cleans the items with the help of The Institute of Environmental and Human Health (TIEHH) personnel for the operation of the instrument. After the decontaminated PPE is properly dried, biomarkers are used to ensure all biological material has been removed and the PPE is ready for health care personnel to safely reuse.

“The idea is to maintain our supply of personal protective equipment for our physicians and nurses and other staff members that are combating COVID-19,” Kharbat said. “We're doing our part in maintaining their safety and hopefully this initiative will be able to aid in that process.”