

## Neopenda Joining Fight Against COVID-19 with Vital Signs Monitor

MedTech startup is adapting its neonatal monitor to help U.S. and global hospitals monitor COVID-19 patient vital signs.

CHICAGO, May 8, 2020 — [Neopenda](#), a Chicago-based public benefit corporation, created a wearable newborn monitoring device which enables healthcare providers in overcrowded and understaffed hospital wards to provide more timely and effective care to at-risk newborns. Neopenda had planned to create a device for adults in future phases, but with the COVID-19 pandemic, the team is accelerating adapting the vital signs monitor for use in adult and pediatric patients in both hospital and non-hospital settings.

The World Health Organization's clinical guidelines for management of COVID-19 recognize vital sign monitoring (VSM) equipment, like pulse oximeters, as essential tools. In the light of the pandemic, there is a growing need for cost-effective equipment like Neopenda's, both domestically and globally. Continuous VSM has long been a core tenet of specialized care among critically ill patients. In clinical practice, it contributes to increased survival-to-discharge rates, lowered complication rates and shorter hospital lengths of stay. Related to COVID-19, it can save lives by triggering a more timely response and can help curb the spread of infection by quickly identifying suspected cases when tracking vital signs.

"At Neopenda, we are harnessing our wealth of experience in VSM to scale up a novel, affordable solution to meet this demand," Co-Founder and CEO Sona Shah said. "Our neoGuard technology is a VSM system that has been carefully designed and tested in accordance with international standards for safety and efficacy, and with feedback from more than 400 health workers."

Neopenda has already been able to deploy neoGuard within one American hospital for the monitoring of COVID-19-positive patients, and a [GoFundMe campaign](#) the startup launched will allow the team to help even more patients. The campaign will fund research and accelerate production of devices, which are in high demand for treating adult patients (with COVID-19 and without) in Ugandan hospitals, U.S. hospitals and other global areas.

### ABOUT NEOPENDA

Neopenda is a social enterprise innovating medical technologies for where they are needed most. Started as a classroom project, the Neopenda team has worked tirelessly for the last five years to develop and bring to market needs-based, context-appropriate medical devices in emerging markets. Based in Chicago, IL, USA, and Kampala, Uganda, Neopenda is a small team of passionate engineers, public health professionals and medical device design and production experts devoted to improving access to high quality health care for underserved populations. Neopenda was also a member of Techstars Chicago Class of 2018.