



PROTECTING COMMUNITIES FROM COVID-19 INFECTIONS

Reducing COVID-19 transmission from potentially asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic people through the use of face masks

By placing large orders, you're employing the jobless and donating to the organization

Social Enterprise Plan

This information provides an opinion on the suitability of face masks and other face covers in the community by individuals who are not ill in order to reduce potential pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19 from the mask wearer to others.

Support Your Community

By ordering customized reusable facemask this will reduce cases of infections and protect many, as many people have lost jobs, the economy is in distress, by ordering in large quantities you're supporting many families in economic crisis and donating to the organisation to support the communities. Many people are unable to afford reusable face masks, and these people are easily exposed to the pandemic. We use [Ministry of Health](#) guide line for making these masks.

Our goal is to protect and empower the communities amidst the COVID-19 pandemic: Many people have lost their jobs, the economy is in distress, your support will contribute towards their livelihood by buying large quantities means those we engage in face mask production will go home with a smile and afford a daily meal and medical care amidst the crisis.

Our **100% Quality Guaranteed**. We use top-of-the-line print technology and premium materials to ensure a clear and vibrant print quality. If you're not happy with the quality of your mask, we'll do what we can until you are, whether that's a reprint or a refund. **PRODUCTION CAPACITY: 3000 PER DAY**

CAUTION!

These are reusable and washable face masks but not medical grade masks. Not suitable for medical workers or young children. Not suitable for those with allergies.

World Action Fund

Is an indigenous organisation operating in West Nile and Kampala, validated by National [NGO Bureau](#)

Background

- **A medical face mask** (also known as surgical or procedure mask) is a medical device covering the mouth, nose and chin ensuring a barrier that limits the transition of an infective agent between the hospital staff and the patient. They are used by healthcare workers to prevent large respiratory droplets and splashes from

reaching the mouth and the nose of the wearer and help reduce and/or control at the source the spread of large respiratory droplets from the person wearing the face mask. Medical masks comply with requirements defined in Ministry of Health Guidelines.

- **Non-medical face masks** (or 'community' masks) include various forms of self-made or commercial masks or face covers made of cloth, other textiles or other materials such as paper. They are not standardised and are not intended for use in healthcare settings or by healthcare professionals.
- **A respirator** or filtering face piece (FFP), is designed to protect the wearer from exposure to airborne contaminants (e.g. from inhaling infectious agents associated with inhaling small and large particle droplets) and is classified as personal protective equipment (PPE). Respirators are mainly used by healthcare workers to protect themselves, especially during aerosol-generating procedures. Valved respirators are not appropriate for use as a means of source control since they do not prevent the release of exhaled respiratory particles from the wearer into the environment. Respirators comply with requirements defined in Ministry in Health standards

Scientific evidence and rationale for the use of face masks in the community by persons without symptoms

Medical **face masks** are recommended **as a means of source control** for persons who are symptomatic in order to prevent the spread of respiratory droplets produced by coughing or sneezing. Respiratory etiquette (i.e. covering of the mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing) also aims at limiting the spread of infection from an infected individual. The application of medical masks as source control has been shown to decrease the release of respiratory droplets carrying respiratory viruses and is recommended for the reduction of transmission of tuberculosis and influenza.

There is increasing evidence that persons with mild or no symptoms at the pre-symptomatic and early stages of infection can contribute to the spread of COVID-19. The role of asymptomatic infections in transmission is unknown. The evidence comes from viral shedding studies, epidemiological investigations of COVID19 clusters and inferences through modelling. A face mask may help reduce the spread of infection in the community by minimizing the excretion of respiratory droplets from infected individuals who may not even know they are infected and before they develop any symptoms. In this respect, mask use by asymptomatic persons can be regarded as an extension of the current practice of face mask use by symptomatic individuals.

However, **WHO's** guidance on 'Nonpharmaceutical public health measures for mitigating the risk and impact of epidemic and pandemic influenza', conditionally **recommends face mask use in the community for asymptomatic individuals** in severe epidemics or pandemics in order to reduce transmission in the community; this is based on mechanistic plausibility for the potential effectiveness of this measure. It should be noted that all relevant evidence comes from studies on influenza and other coronaviruses and may not be directly applicable to COVID-19.

The use of face masks in the community may primarily serve as a means of source control. This measure can be particularly relevant in epidemic situations when the number of asymptomatic but infectious persons in the community can be assumed to be high. Wearing a face mask could be considered, especially

- ✓ when visiting busy, closed spaces, arcades, grocery stores, shopping centres, etc.;
- ✓ when using public transport; and
- ✓ for certain workplaces and professions that involve physical proximity to many other people (such as members of the police force, cashiers – if not behind a glass partition, etc.) and when teleworking is not possible.

It should be emphasised that use of face masks in the community should be considered **only as a complementary measure** and not as a replacement of the core preventive measures that are recommended to reduce community transmission including physical distancing, staying home when ill, teleworking if possible, respiratory etiquette, meticulous hand hygiene and avoiding touching the face, nose, eyes and mouth.

Appropriate use of face masks is important. The face mask should completely cover the face from the bridge of the nose down to the chin. Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitiser before putting on and taking off the face mask. When taking off the face mask, remove it from behind, avoiding to touch the front side. Dispose the face mask safely if it is disposable. Wash your hands or apply alcohol-based hand sanitiser immediately after removing the face mask. Washable, reusable face should be washed as soon as possible after each use, using common detergent at 60 °C. Campaigns for the appropriate use of face masks may improve the effectiveness of the measure.

There are **three important caveats** related to the use of face masks in the community:

- It should be ensured that medical face masks (and respirators) are conserved and **prioritised for use by healthcare providers**, especially given the current shortages of respiratory personal protective equipment reported across country.
- The use of face masks may provide a **false sense of security** leading to suboptimal physical distancing, poor respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene – and even not staying at home when ill.
- There is a risk that **improper removal** of the face mask, handling of a contaminated face mask or an increased tendency to touch the face while wearing a face mask by healthy persons **might actually increase the risk of transmission**.

For communication purposes, it is important to emphasise that the people who use face masks in the community want to protect their fellow citizens in case they are infected. They do not want to unknowingly spread the virus, and wearing a mask should not be misconstrued that they want to protect themselves from others. Wearing a mask is not an act of selfishness and should be promoted as **an act of solidarity**. **Pros and cons of face mask use in the community**

PLACE AN ORDER

You can also choose your design, our technical team will design with your customized style and brand, see below our range of pre-set designs to create your custom mask. With unlimited personalization.

- Adult/Teen Size Only
- Reusable: Machine washable
- Soft polyester fabric
- Comfortable fit
- Easy online creation
- Double layered



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