

# PROTOCOL FOR THE STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND USE OF MASKS

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# MANAGEMENT AND USE OF MASKS



## NON-PHARMACEUTICAL MEASURES (NPM)

The use of masks is not a panacea to prevent viral transmission during an epidemic. It only makes sense as one element alongside other NPMs (personal hygiene, physical distancing, and so on).

## MASKS' PROTECTION

The use of mask should be centered on its physical properties. For this reason, there are professional masks for health care professionals and other groups that need them, and there are social masks for the general population.

By using masks every individual is protecting others while protecting himself.



## SOCIAL MASKS

A social mask is one that is made out of fabric, either produced by the industry or home-made (DIY), according to established rules. These masks have two functions:

- 1 - Diminish and mitigate contagion chains in the asymptomatic phase.
- 2 - To reserve professional masks and other personal protective equipment for the groups that need it the most.

## PUBLIC TRAINING PROGRAMMES

To implement the widespread use of masks it is necessary that strong public training programmes are also provided for the population.

Clear instructions (production, use and disposal) on the masks' technical requirements must be respected and made available to everyone.



## SOCIO-CULTURAL ASPECTS AND MASKS

Decisions on the widespread use of masks must consider the socio-cultural aspects (e.g. personal image, religion, human rights, etc.) in each country and culture.

## NATIONAL SECURITY

Personal Protective Equipment became an element of potential geopolitical interest and national security. It is important to reinforce countries' capacities (manufacturing, production scalability, storage and distribution, etc.) to safeguard these materials, including masks.



# PROTOCOL FOR THE STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT AND USE OF MASKS - IMPLEMENTATION

## HIERARCHY OF ACCESS TO MASKS

Priority of access to the highest efficacy masks should be given according to the degree of risk of exposure to oneself and other contacts.



## PROTOCOL APPLICATION DURING THE EPIDEMIC CURVE

The need and function of masks differs at various phases of the epidemic.

