

**COVID-19 ECHO Session #12 \_May 26, 2020:**

**Facial Mask during COVID-19: Homemaking, Disinfection and imaging**

SN	Questions	Answer/ Response / Comments
<b>Usage of Facial Mask</b>		
1.	Is it safe to use a face shield when you are in public places? Or should it always be used with a mask?	Shields need to be used with mask for safety
2.	How long should one stay with the mask on, both surgical and homemade?	Extended wear with proper filtration efficacy and fit should not be harmful with extended wear
3.	Is it safe to exercise (jogging, physical exercise etc.) with a face mask? What is recommendation?	Outdoors with social distancing should be fine in open air but no contact sports Exercise not near people may not require mask in open air
4.	As children return to school can you comment on the requirement to wear masks all day at school, 7hrs, would this have a negative impact on the child's health?	Children need to be trained in correct donning and doffing at school and wear. It is a huge priority and we are preparing materials
5.	How long can children use masks in school? How will they deal with playing where more air is required?	Playing needs to observe social distancing. In a very hot country air is an issue I agree
6.	These Homemade masks are usually reusable. For how long it can be reused?	Reuse is until materials wear out and they can be cleaned with hot water and soap since it is an enveloped virus
7.	How long can an N95 mask be reused following a series of disinfection.	N95 about 5 times (we are testing) as fit degrades with doffing and donning. Dry heat can decontaminate about 20 times though
<b>Safety / Protection</b>		
8.	How effective is multilayer cotton face mask?	Multilayer is very effective , even better with pocket of 3 layers of face tissue or toilet paper
9.	Are health staff in facilities safe with the surgical masks and not N95 mask?	Health staff with suspected COVID patients or close exposure are safer with N95
10.	We have all sorts of masks of different materials in the market for sale. Could this be a breeding ground for the spread of C19?	In markets cleanliness is always an issue as people touch and this provides contamination opportunities
11.	With reusable masks, do you remove and air dry in the transitional space before you enter your home, or do you take it inside the house? Please advise?	Disinfect outside the home, a simple pail with hot water and soap is good. keep them in a plastic bag to protect others and do not allow them near food
12.	What is the age limit of wearing face mask?	Age should not be a factor for children over 1 year, there is no research on masks with children with asthma or other respiratory conditions that I know of, important area for further study

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		Children can wear masks as well no safety issues and it will keep them safer too
13.	Are Masks advisable for children less than 2 years of age?	In the USA they are saying 1 year+ not sure of the research on this but it makes sense given their oxygen needs and challenges of keeping them on a baby. For children over 2, this is accepted in many countries
<b>Decontamination of mask</b>		
14.	If a mask has been used for a few hours, can it be decontaminated by removing it and letting it sit isolated for a few days, as the virus typically dies after a few days on most surfaces?	Do not advise leaving mask without decontamination because of contaminating others and self plus it takes a lot of time to become inactive particularly with continuous wear
15.	Can we soak the 3ply surgical mask in soap and then dry it in sunlight and reuse in mild community exposure?	3ply surgical masks can be decontaminated but not with soap and water , it destroys filtration, Sunlight virus remains in mask + 7 days Dry heat 70C for one hour will work
16.	Is it ok to clean N95 mask by microwaving it?	N95 Masks can't be microwaved as it destroys the mask and the metal, we tested this
17.	Is it appropriate to conclude that chemical disinfectants should not be used for n95 mask? Is this right?	Yes! Do not use chemical disinfectant it's toxic
18.	Not sure if it was discussed, but what about passive decontamination? Leaving mask hanging for x days, and then re-use?	Passive decontamination is inconsistent better to use dry heat 70C 1 hour
<b>Property / characteristics of masks</b>		
19.	Does the number of layers we use determine the efficiency of filtration beside the material? So, does putting more gives better protection?	More layers need to be balanced with ease of breathing, more layers increase blocking properties so outer 2 , 3 layers of tissue and an inner layer of material near face layer might be a good mix
20.	What is the difference between Fit test and filter test?	Fit show no air escape through sides, top and bottom, filtration shows if materials can be breathed through without labor but still repel /block virus