# FACE COVERING GUIDANCE AND AN UPDATE ON SARS-COV-2 VARIANTS

Brandon Kemperman, CIH Occupational Health & Safety Manager / Respirator Program Administrator

February 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



# DOUBLE MASKING RECENT NEWS

- Dr. Anthony Fauci
  - "If you have a physical covering with one layer, you put another layer on, it just makes common sense that it likely would be more effective"

- Presidential inauguration coverage
- General news excitement following



**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY** 

#### **SARS-COV-2 TRANSMISSION MODE**

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - Transmission Modes = Contact, droplet, airborne
  - Principal mode of infection = exposure to respiratory droplets through close contact
  - Most infections spread through close contact, not airborne transmission
  - Airborne transmission risks include:
    - Enclosed spaces with others
    - Prolonged exposure to respiratory particles
    - Inadequate ventilation or air handling

Respiratory Droplet

Coronavirus 0.1-0.5 µm

5-10 μm

Not to scale

### **CLOTH FACE COVERING PURPOSE**

- SOURCE CONTROL
  - Barrier to capture the wearers respiratory droplets
  - Protect others from your droplets
  - May also filter external droplets, per CDC
    - Efficiency varies
    - Some filter nearly 50% of fine particles (<1 μm)
- Upwards of 80% blockage of personal droplets (CDC)



# **CLOTH FACE COVERINGS**



Are <u>not tested</u> and <u>not regulated to meet a certain minimum</u> <u>standard</u>

- Freedom to fabricate/select
- Any number of layers, fabric type and density
- Various styles
- Could be supplied to the person by company or donation
- VALVES! People may not be aware of the lack of source control
- Fit may not be ideal
- All loose-fitting face coverings leak

Googled "horrible face coverings"

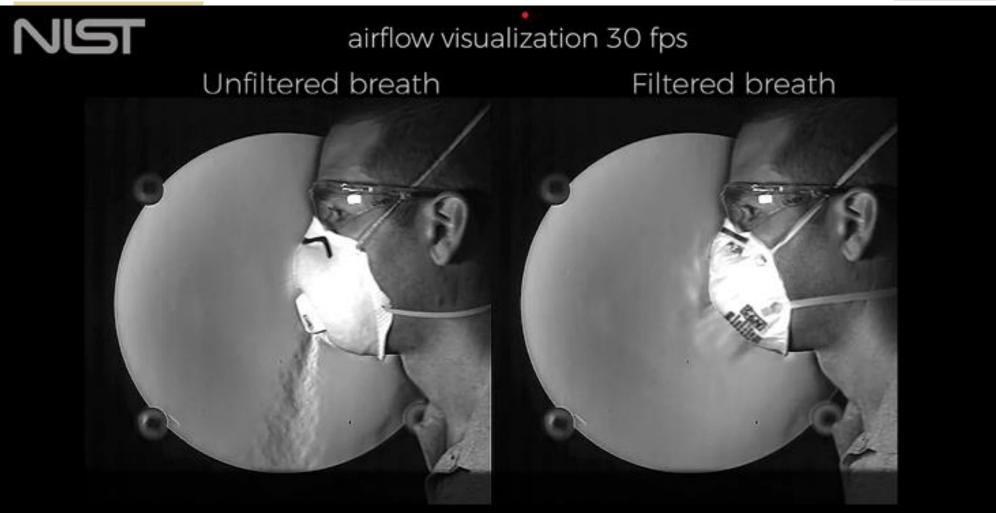
**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY** 

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



#### **EXHALATION VALVES**

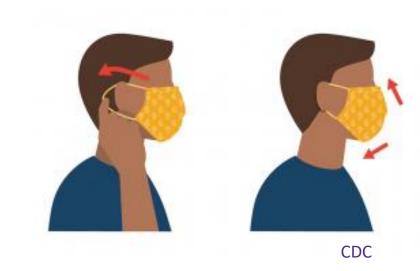
**NIST Video** 



### **CLOTH FACE COVERINGS**

#### **CDC Guidance**

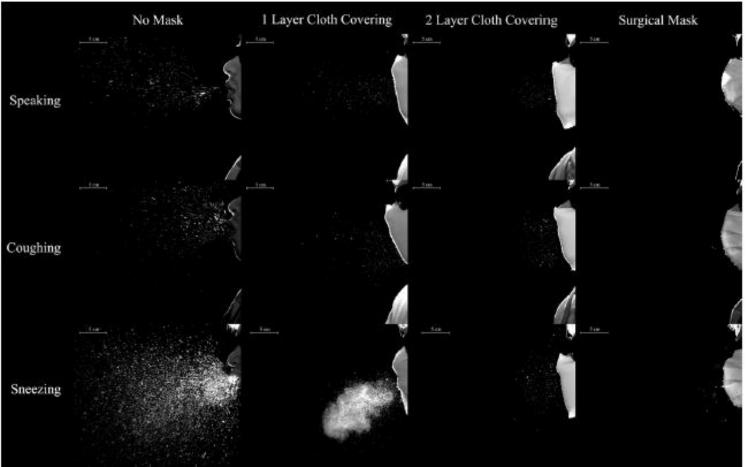
- Multiple layers of tightly woven, washable and breathable fabric
- Nose wire
- Block light when held up to bright light source
- Snug fit to face
- Covers mouth and nose
- Secured with ties or loops
- Allows for breathing without restriction



#### **Chest Clinic (July 2020)**

- Face Coverings and Mask to Minimize Droplet Dispersion and Aerosolization: A Video Case

Study

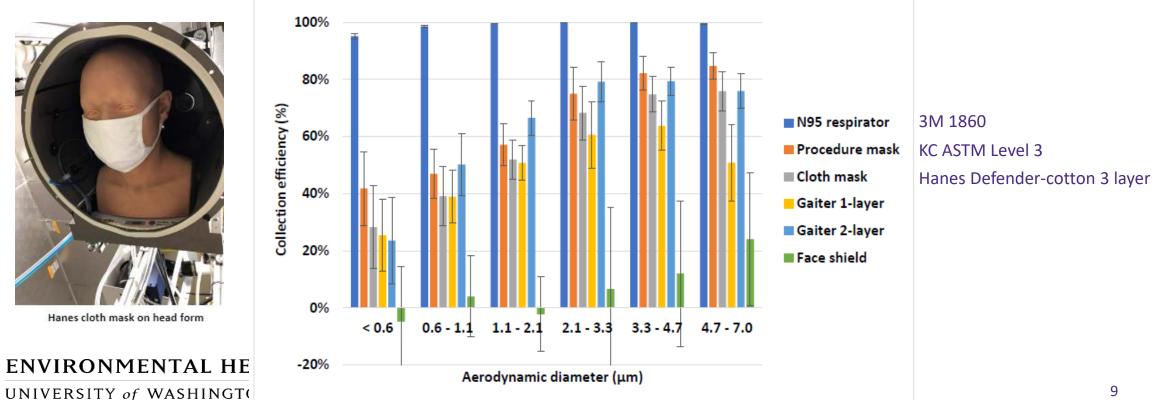


ENVIRONMENTAL UNIVERSITY of WASHII

#### **NIOSH – Health Effects Laboratory Division**

 Efficacy of Face Masks, Neck Gaiters and Face Shields for Reducing the Expulsion of Simulated **Cough-Generated Aerosols (October 2020)** 





#### **JAMA Internal**

 Evaluation of Cloth Masks and Modified Procedure Masks as PPE for the Public During the COVID-19 Pandemic

| Consumer-grade face masks  | Condition        | % FFE (SD)ª |
|--|------------------|-------------|
| 2-Layer woven nylon mask with ear loops                                | constitution     |             |
| Without aluminum nose bridge   | New              | 44.7 (6.4)  |
| With aluminum nose bridge  | New              | 56.3 (6.5)  |
| With aluminum nose bridge<br>and 1 nonwoven insert                     | New              | 74.4 (4.8)  |
| With aluminum nose bridge,<br>washed (no insert)                       | Washed<br>1 time | 79.0 (4.3)  |
| Cotton bandana   |                  |             |
| Folded surgeon general style   | New              | 49.9 (5.8)  |
| Folded "bandit" style  | New              | 49.0 (6.2)  |
| Single-layer woven polyester gaiter/<br>neck cover (balaclava bandana) | New              | 37.8 (5.2)  |
| Single-layer woven polyester/nylon mask<br>with ties                   | New              | 39.3 (7.2)  |
| Nonwoven polypropylene mask  | New              | 28.6 (13.9) |

Table. Face Mask FFE Against Submicron Particle Penetration

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY**

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

| 3-Layer woven cotton mask with ear loops | New | 26.5 (10.5) |  |  |
|--|-----|-------------|--|--|
| Medical face masks and modifications     |     |             |  |  |
| 3M 9210 NIOSH-approved N95 respirator    | New | 98.4 (0.5)  |  |  |
| Surgical mask with ties                  | New | 71.5 (5.5)  |  |  |
| Procedure mask with ear loops            | New | 38.5 (11.2) |  |  |
| Procedure mask with ear loops            |     |             |  |  |
| Loops tied and corners tucked in         | New | 60.3 (11.1) |  |  |
| Ear guard                                | New | 61.7 (6.5)  |  |  |
| 23-mm Claw hair clip                     | New | 64.8 (5.1)  |  |  |
| Fix-the-mask (3 rubber bands)            | New | 78.2 (3.3)  |  |  |
| Nylon hosiery sleeve                     | New | 80.2 (3.1)  |  |  |

Abbreviations: FFE, fitted filtration efficiency; NIOSH, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health.

<sup>a</sup> The percentage of FFE corresponds to 100 × (1 – behind the mask particle concentration / ambient particle concentration). Overall FFE percentage and SD were calculated across the length of the test.

#### **ACS Nano**

- Aerosol Filtration Efficiency of Common Fabrics Used in Respiratory Cloth Masks (4/20/20)

|                                     | flow rate: 1.2 CFM      |                         |                       |                      |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--|--|
|                                     | filter effic            | iency (%)               | pressure differential |                      |  |  |
| sample/fabric                       | <300 nm average ± error | >300 nm average ± error | $\Delta P$ (Pa)       |                      |  |  |
| N95 (no gap)                        | 85 ± 15                 | 99.9 ± 0.1              | 2.2                   |                      |  |  |
| N95 (with gap)                      | 34 ± 15                 | $12 \pm 3$              | 2.2                   |                      |  |  |
| surgical mask (no gap)              | 76 ± 22                 | 99.6 ± 0.1              | 2.5                   |                      |  |  |
| surgical mask (with gap)            | 50 ± 7                  | 44 ± 3                  | 2.5                   |                      |  |  |
| cotton quilt                        | 96 ± 2                  | 96.1 ± 0.3              | 2.7                   | Cloth Mask           |  |  |
| quilter's cotton (80 TPI), 1 layer  | 9 ± 13                  | $14 \pm 1$              | 2.2                   |                      |  |  |
| quilter's cotton (80 TPI), 2 layers | $38 \pm 11$             | 49 ± 3                  | 2.5                   |                      |  |  |
| flannel                             | 57 ± 8                  | 44 ± 2                  | 2.2                   |                      |  |  |
| cotton (600 TPI), 1 layer           | 79 ± 23                 | 98.4 ± 0.2              | 2.5                   |                      |  |  |
| cotton (600 TPI), 2 layers          | 82 ± 19                 | 99.5 ± 0.1              | 2.5                   |                      |  |  |
| chiffon, 1 layer                    | 67 ± 16                 | $73 \pm 2$              | 2.7                   |                      |  |  |
| chiffon, 2 layers                   | 83 ± 9                  | 90 ± 1                  | 3.0                   |                      |  |  |
| natural silk, 1 layer               | 54 ± 8                  | 56 ± 2                  | 2.5                   | -                    |  |  |
| natural silk, 2 layers              | 65 ± 10                 | 65 ± 2                  | 2.7                   |                      |  |  |
| natural silk, 4 layers              | 86 ± 5                  | 88 ± 1                  | 2.7                   | Electrostatic        |  |  |
| hybrid 1: cotton/chiffon            | 97 ± 2                  | 99.2 ± 0.2              | 3.0 Aero              | sol · · · Filtration |  |  |
| hybrid 2: cotton/silk (no gap)      | 94 ± 2                  | 98.5 ± 0.2              | 3.0                   | Filtration           |  |  |
| hybrid 2: cotton/silk (gap)         | 37 ± 7                  | $32 \pm 3$              | 3.0                   |                      |  |  |
| hybrid 3: cotton/flannel            | 95 ± 2                  | 96 ± 1                  | 3.0                   |                      |  |  |

"The filtration efficiencies are the weighted averages for each size range—less than 300 nm and more than 300 nm.

### **CLOTH FACE COVERINGS**

#### **Effective!**

- If constructed per minimum guidance
- Worn, and worn properly

#### "Real-world" effectiveness examples (CDC)

- 2 symptomatically ill hairstylists 139 clients 15 minutes each 67 clients consenting to interviews not infected
- Retrospective Thailand study 1,000 persons contact traced 70% reduced risk for mask wearers versus individuals not wearing masks
- USS Theodore Roosevelt Close working environments use of face coverings resulted in 70% reduced risk

#### **DOUBLE MASKING SUMMARY**

- Not necessary if you have a proper mask, but double masking optional as long as following CDC guidelines (Types of Masks)
- Wear a proper, good fitting mask with at least two layers
  Fitter or brace may be used for a snug fit
- Reserve N95s for healthcare and required tasks based on risk/regulation
- Soon, maybe February ASTM Standard for barrier face coverings

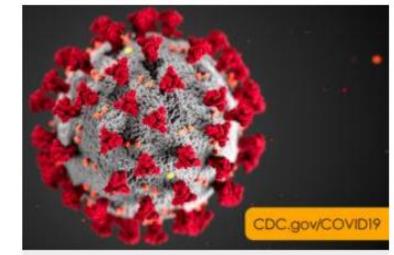
### **DOUBLE MASKING SUMMARY**

#### Remember that we have many other prevention controls

- COVID-19 Prevention Plans
- Hand hygiene
- Physical/social distancing
- Ventilation
- Self-attestation
- Working remotely / virtual meetings
- Scheduling
- Occupant density
- Work area layout and pedestrian routing
- Risk ranking with controls and PPE
- Other alternative strategies (barriers)

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY**

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON



**NOVEL CORONAVIRUS** 

#### COVID-19 Health and Safety Resources

Access resources for maintaining the health and safety of personnel working on site to support critical operations.

COVID-19 RESOURCES

#### **DOUBLE MASKING – UW MEDICINE NEWSROOM**

Does Wearing a second mask make a difference? – Dr. Seth Cohen





CDC – [New Variants of the Virus that Causes COVID-19]

**Detected in United States in December-January** 

- UK B.1.1.7
  - Spreads more easily and quickly (30-50% more contagious)
  - Mutation in the receptor binding domain
- South Africa B.1.351
  - Shares some mutations with B.1.1.7
- Brazil P.1
  - Contains additional mutations that may affect its ability to be recognized by antibodies
- Emerging Nigeria strain CDC monitoring, but no concerning characteristics so far



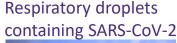


#### What is unknown

- How widely they have spread
- Differences from the original detected disease
- How they affect existing therapies, vaccines, and tests
- Public health officials are studying the new variants
  - Spread easier from person to person?
  - Milder or more severe disease in people?
  - Detected by current available viral tests?
  - Respond to medicines?
  - Change effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines?

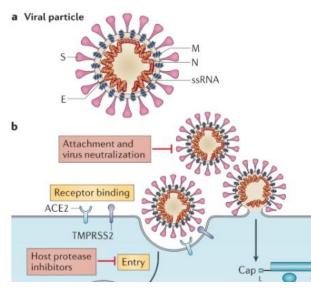
More research needed about new variants

- Transmission mode outside the body versus coronavirus spike binding to cell receptor and outcomes
- New mutations do not necessarily mean spreads easier outside the body through the air, droplets or via surfaces
- No evidence to suggest a major change in prevention strategy
  - (Wash hands, Wear mask, Watch distance)





VS



Coronavirus binding to cell receptor

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

**Additional information:** 

- UW Medicine Vaccines FAQ (https://www.uwmedicine.org/coronavirus/vaccine)
- CDC New variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant.html)
- Seattle King County Public Health (Public Health Insider)

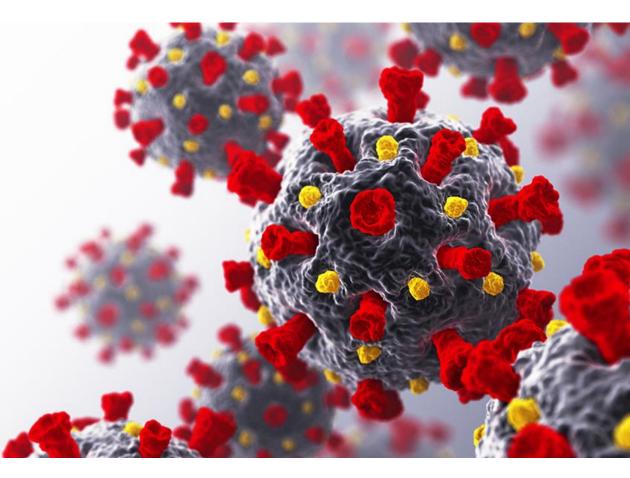
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

### **QUESTIONS / DISCUSSION**

EH&S 206-543-7262 ehsdept@uw.edu

Brandon Kemperman, CIH 206-543-1713 bjkemp@uw.edu



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON