



Whether the Available Masks Functioning Properly? A Timely Question

Deepak Kumar, Sukhpreet Singh, Deepak Yadav, Monu Kumari, Sumanpreet Kaur, Rajasri Bhattacharyya and Dibyajyoti Banerjee*

Department of Experimental Medicine and Biotechnology, PGIMER, Chandigarh, India

***Corresponding Author:** Dibyajyoti Banerjee, Department of Experimental Medicine and Biotechnology, PGIMER, Chandigarh, India.

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Now it's indeed a bad time from the perspective of health. The COVID-19 pandemic is on-going. It is caused by the newly discovered coronavirus (SARS-nCoV2) [1,2]. Somewhere the disease is under control, and in other places, it is yet to be under control. Several Nations were under lockdown in recent past, and the life process is gradually wishing to get normalized under cover of social distancing, sanitization and mask [3]. For all practical purpose, there is no medicine or a vaccine that is widely accepted for prevention or cure of COVID 19 illness although plenty of such items are proposed if not in the final phase of trial or just approved in some Nation but under criticism of others.

In this context, it is noteworthy that no authority as on date believes that masks will not be beneficial at least to some extent. Use of mask is also currently widespread. Wearing of a mask is viewed as non-pharmaceutical prevention of COVID 19 disease [4]. Use of mask should be regulated, and in March 2020, several Nations had put restrictions on mask use [5]. However, in June 2020 expert body like WHO has promulgated that proper use of a mask by the public at large, particularly in places where there is community transmission of the disease can be beneficial [6].

Currently, authorities are saying that the general population should use mask properly at least in public places. It is expected to minimize coronavirus related infection in two possible ways. Firstly, it will put an obstacle to the virus to enter a new host from an infected individual. Secondly, an infected individual will shed fewer virus particles in the air/environment where other non-infected persons are there. Needless to emphasize that, the second expectation is not met with masks with the respirators. We emphasize that wearing of the mask should be proper to minimize

the chance of infection; otherwise, that may be detrimental. The mask itself should not contain any dirt or the virus. Then, the mask will be the source of infection. Therefore, I feel that procedures may be evolved to know that the masks are clean and proper at point of use. Scientists are in the process of evolving such technologies; however, our experience in the field is limited. Therefore, I believe that it is the demand of recent time to urgently develop user-friendly technologies so that end-user can know that the mask is clean and proper.

Conflict of Interest

None

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