

Editorial Note on Nano technology of Face Masks

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EDITORIAL

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is one of the most significant threats to mankind in the twenty-first century. While researchers are focusing on the production of vaccines and elucidating the mechanism of action and evolution of harmful SARS-CoV-2, compulsory wearing of facial protection is the current most effective public health intervention, second only to social distancing

In April 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended that, based on epidemiological evidence on the close relationship between mask wearing and pandemic control, public wear face coverings in areas with high rates of transmission. This defence against SARS-CoV-2 and other airborne pathogens enables industry stakeholders to design and generate creative solutions. In mask development chains, nanoparticles, nanofibers and other pioneering nanomaterial-based technologies have been implemented to enhance performance and confer antiviral properties. These drugs immediately available to the public should be closely analysed during an emergency such as COVID-19 in terms of effectiveness and potential long-term effects on the skin and lungs of the wearers as well as on the environment.

Influenza transmission can occur not only by touching the surfaces but also by small droplets that transmit through air and travel long distances, large droplets that are suspended in air. If completely desiccated, the respiratory particles completely shrink in size to one half of their diameter. These smaller droplets can penetrate the smaller bronchi.

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Indeed, if fully desiccated, respiratory particles compress to a diameter of slightly less than one-half their initial diameter in the air. These tiny droplets have the potential to move into the smaller bronchi.

Protective masks are divided into three groups based on filtering efficiency: single-use face masks, respirator masks, and surgical masks. Single-use face masks and cloth masks are normally made of a single thin layer and cannot filter very small particles; however, they may be able to block the emission of large droplets and are useful when mask supplies are minimal.

Respirator masks (also known as N95 masks in the United States and FFP2 masks in Europe) have the greatest filtering ability (at least 95 percent of particles smaller than 0.3 μ m for N95 respirators) and are the most convenient to wear. Proper measures should be taken by the government and businesses during the pandemic and also in the future to reduce the risk of nano particle infection to general public.