

Narratives on face mask wearing from members of Navigating Knowledge Landscapes Network - the contribution No. 7

Country: **CROATIA**

Predrag Pale

University of Zagreb, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing

Email: predrag.pale@fer.hr

Received May 8th, 2020

There are no mandatory regulations regarding wearing of face masks. There are recommendations and expectations, especially regarding public spaces: transportation, shops, hospitals, schools.

However, even if a recommendation is perceived as mandatory, it is unclear what should be done to persons not abiding them.

There are organizations providing facemasks, gloves and disinfectants to their employees/visitors but overall shortage makes it scarce practice and high variety of implementations.

Things are further complicated by huge lack of clear position statements and instructions as to what is the effect, efficiency and purpose of masks as well as what constructions/materials are effective.

I am not wearing the mask: at home, in my car if no one was or will be driving with me within 12 hours, in the nature if no one was walking that path 3 hours before me.

I wear cotton masks but don't know how often should they be washed and I wear disposable masks for which I don't know how long are they effective nor whether they can be re-generated (by exposure to UV, hot air ...)

I wear disposable masks, understanding they protect others from me, more than me from others.

I wear them to demonstrate responsible behavior and attitude to benefit of society.

At the beginning of epidemic majority of people I see in public were wearing masks. The number decreases.

Some demonstrate their disbelief in virus theories others simply don't care.

I am somewhat irritated with those who do not care. Sometimes I demonstrate my disproof of their behavior, silently.

I think that it is important that authorities give clear positions about effectiveness, rules and proper use of masks, as well as their desired properties.

They should also create the climate which would clearly emphasize that those not following the rules are harming others and are showing disrespect for their fellow citizens.