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Review on Current Requirement of Mask Compulsion Post Pandemic in the Hospitality Sector of Pune City

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Abstract:

The science of wearing mask/s in public is to cumber the transfer of the rapidly spreading Covid 19 virus. In this study we are examining mask usage, synchronizing the literature to inform multiple areas; population impact, transmission characteristics, wearer protection, sociological considerations and implementation considerations.

The primary transmission route of the Covid-19 is via respiratory particles through the already infected individuals. Reducing the disease spread requires physical/social distancing and taking precautions to reduce probability per contact.

Wearing mask/s reduces transmissibility per contact by reducing transmission of infected respiratory particles in both laboratory and clinical contexts.

Public masks wearing is most effective at reducing spread of the virus when compliance is high whether it be N95, disposable or home-made cloth masks; all form an effective source control, in conjunction with existing hygiene, sanitization, distancing and contact tracing strategies. We recommend increasing and

continuous focus on a previously overlooked aspect of mask usage as many respiratory particles become smaller due to evaporation. Mask/s wearing by not only infectious person/s and susceptible person such as health care workers but also every individual should focus on individual protection and this should be made compulsory. Public and government officials should strongly propagate and encourage public awareness of face masks in public, including the use of appropriate regulation.

Key Words: Masks, Masked Education, Covid 19, Pandemic, Hygiene, Sanitization, Health and Safety

Introduction:

As long as there was no specific treatment or vaccine, the first pandemic of the 21st century was fought with the methods of 14th and 19th centuries - distancing, hand washing, covering of the nose and mouth with a cloth. On a global front, face masks had become an increasingly important part of national strategies to fight the Covid 19 pandemic. Schools, Colleges, Institutes, Universities and even Offices and Commercial sites closures have already ended but the question of wearing masks at all these places in the current scenario is discussed, particularly, as new cases are popping up and newer variants are on the rise along with new viruses.

As the virus is still with us, the following is the characteristics (both advantages and disadvantages) of the virus and its transmission.

- People without any symptoms may be infected and spread of the Covid -19.
- Upon speaking, the virus is released into the air, the louder the more.
- The virus can remain airborne for many hours in closed areas
- Wearing masks is convenient, reasonable, easy to implement and easier to supervise
- Wearing masks may have its physical side effects and limitations
- Face masks impair face identification and face recognition
- Face masks impair verbal as well as non-verbal communication
- Face masks block emotional signaling between the two or more individual conversations for instance – teacher and student/s.
- Mask are useful to prevent inhalation of vehicle and other air pollutants.

Given these pros and cons, its is not clear whether masks should play an important role in the current times and settings of this viral pandemic.

Literature Review:

Sarah Bartsch, Kelly Oshea and Kevin Chin (2022) in their article 'Maintaining Face Mask use before and after achieving different Covid-19 vaccination coverage levels: a modelling study' studied that masks are a strong support for achieving successful protection against the virus until the required vaccination coverage is not procured. Continuous wearing of masks is required as the virus variants are emerging and hence masks is a cost effective and cost saving protection.

Dr Burnell Kurian, Dr Shaijo Daniel and Dr Sayantan Ghosh in their review article, 'The Need of Understanding the Importance and Uses of Face Masks' published in Journal of Current Medical Research

and Opinion stated that the transmission of the virus could be restricted by the use of masks as people need to travel and come in contact with a variety of people for their day to day needs and living. This is a global scenario which could be reduced by the use of proper masks.

UNICEF (2020) educated us on the reasons for wearing masks/ face covering not only for adults and children, the types of masks which are best to use, recommended fabric to be used, the use of face shield etc. The website also has discussed the reasons why a mask could make a person unwell and when should a person wear or not wear a mask.

They also discussed the correct method in educating a child to wear masks for safety and protection.

Jeremy Howard and Austin Huang (2020) and the co-authors, in their article, 'An Evidence Review of Face Masks against Covid-19' published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences 2021 Vol. 118 No. 4 e2014564118 dated 13-07-, states that by wearing masks lesser people are infected when both the infected and non-infected persons are wearing masks; whether it be cloth, medical or N95 masks.

Objective:

We call this current phase of the Covid 19 virus situation – 'The Endemic' but then cases are on the rise and many are still affected and infected. In Institutions, colleges, schools and even at work places; adults and children are travelling from various locations, using various means of public transport, interacting with multiple people known and unknown and hence still people are falling ill and are still unsafe.

Our study is to understand the requirement and necessity of the use of masks and whether they are helpful or are we safe without using masks in this present situation.

Methodology

This review includes data related to Face Masks and their related uses. Analysing the effect of face masks and their rational uses has led to/ leading/ will lead to a substantial reduction in the Covid 19 infections and also regarding to its safe use. The information is collected over the internet from research articles, various guidelines related to face masks using journal sites and health care organization sites and also a google form sent to Pune residents.

Discussion

It has been observed that though it is said that Covid-19 has reached the Endemic Stage on one end; however; daily it is also been read that new and powerful variants are on the rise; even as we read here. To combat this situation, face masks are useful and effective as preventive measures against the virus.

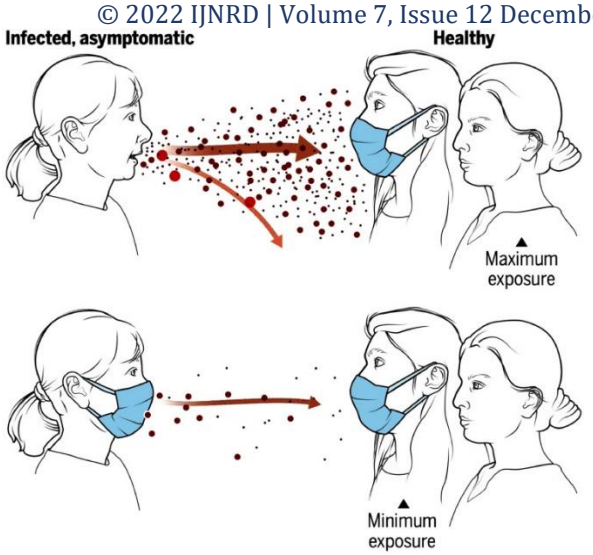

Fig. 1
Face masks reduce airborne transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The authors comment: "Infectious aerosol particles can be released during breathing and speaking by asymptomatic infected individuals. No masking maximizes exposure, whereas universal masking results in the least exposure" ([65], p. 1423, © Science Magazine, with permission).

Our findings suggest that face mask should be implemented compulsorily in Pune and also nation-wide and universally; even though they may be home made or of a poor quality but this measure has definitely contributed and would continue to contribute greatly in ending the Covid-19 virus and its variants. Considering the population and masses in the city and each individual meeting so many people daily; face mask implementation be done without any delay.

In our Indian society; people wearing masks creates a lot of scope of misunderstanding and emotional misinterpretation but we need to face the fact with a smile and react accordingly – keeping in mind the potentially dangerous situations – especially in schools and colleges.

Conclusion:

The continuous uncertainty of the emergence of virus variations, the current and frequent drastic climatic changes, the number of cases is on an increase again and hence further has increased the face mask/s value. With the upcoming winter surge and the immunity of people decreasing; the transferability of virus is higher.

The review study supports the usage of face masks across the population and not just amongst a specific group of people.

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