



planning, monitoring  
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Department:  
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation**

**LITERATURE REVIEW: CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MANDATORY  
MASK POLICY DEBATE IN SOUTH AFRICA**

05 August 2020

## Introduction

The South African Department of Health (DoH) in a media release stated that global and local debates exist on the need for the general public to wear face-masks during the Covid-19 pandemic and support for the wide use of cloth face-masks, including for people who are not ill as the epidemic unfolds, is growing. It argued that the main benefit of mass masking is the reduction of the amount of Coronavirus (or Influenza virus) being coughed up by those with the infection and even those that are asymptomatic, which reduces the spread of the virus. The Department therefore, released a media statement on April 21, 2020 recommending that all citizens wear face or non-medical mask in public. It also encouraged commuters in public transport to face-masks, especially in spaces where physical distancing was almost impossible<sup>1</sup>.

The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa on March, 31 2020 published a Guidance Document on the reduction of the transmission of COVID-19 when using cloth face-masks to inform public health recommendations. In this document, the College argues that the use of cloth masks has been a norm in several settings prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and have been suggested as expedient in reducing community transmission and reducing demand for medical masks that could be preserved for healthcare settings. It however, concludes that evidence for their effectiveness of cloth masks is unclear, therefore did not advocate usage based on the lack of evidence on whether use benefits outweigh harm. It therefore, asserted that were cloth must to be advocated, it would be imperative for them to be implemented in conjunction with clear messaging about their design, use and disposal, and an emphasis on other hygiene measures<sup>2</sup>.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that in public setting, especially in places where social distancing is a challenge, cloth face coverings be used to slow the spread of the virus. This proposal was also deemed advisable by medical experts, that argue that masks are one of the most effective ways of slowing the spread of the virus<sup>3</sup>. This proposal has recently been supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which proposed the universal wearing of masks in public, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. It however, warned against the use of masks on individuals with breathing challenges or those without the capability of removing masks

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Health, 2020. Use of cloth face-masks by members of the general public in South Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/2020/04/21/use-of-cloth-face-masks-by-members-of-the-general-public-in-south-africa-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

<sup>2</sup> The Colleges of Medicine of South Africa NPC March, 31 20202020. Guidance Document 2: Reducing the transmission of COVID-19 when using cloth face-masks: informing public health recommendations: <https://www.samrc.ac.za/sites/default/files/attachments/2020-04-17/CMSA%20CPHM%20Guidance%20on%20COVID19%20and%20cloth%20face-masks%20FINAL.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Rubio-Romero, J.C., del Carmen Pardo-Ferreira, M., Torrecilla-García, J.A. and Calero-Castro, S. May 13, 2020. Disposable masks: Disinfection and sterilization for reuse, and non-certified manufacturing, in the face of shortages during the COVID-19 pandemic.

without assistance. It has also advised the population not to use masks reserved for healthcare workers but advised on the wearing cloth face cover in public for healthy persons<sup>4</sup>.

## Background

### South African context: Evidence of the usage of masks

According to a Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey (CRAM) National Income Dynamics Study (NIDS) which was conducted between May 07 and June 27, 2020, the best strategies widely acknowledged for reducing the spread of the virus are avoiding crowds, close contact by distancing physically or socially and wearing masks. The study ascertained the extent to which these practices were adhered to. The study found that about 53 per cent of individuals that reported behavioural change, reported wearing masks. About 58 per cent reported avoiding contact by either staying at home, avoiding large gatherings or big groups and only about 25 percent indicated practicing physical distancing<sup>5</sup>.

A study conducted between April 13 and April 18, 2020 by the University of Johannesburg's Centre for Social Change, with the support of the Human Sciences Research Council's (HSRC) Developmental, Capable and Ethical State (DCES) division found positive results about preventative behavioural response during the national lockdown. The study found that almost all participants, except a per cent indicated adhering to the preventative measures, with close to 80 per cent indicating that they frequently washed hands and only went out when in need of essentials. Social distancing in public or in social gatherings was between 64 and 66 per cent. The study however, found that only about 37 per cent of the participants indicated wearing face-masks. The study emphasised that the need to continue clearing the messaging around masks and gloves<sup>6</sup>.

### Conflicting messaging about mask usage

Messages about the effective of face masks in minimising Covid-19 exposure have been inconsistent. Even though the Health Minister Dr Zweli Mkhize, through his spokesperson had requested the public to wear face masks to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, Times Live argues that the minister further expressed the importance of masks in a press conference in

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<sup>4</sup> CDC, July 13, 2020. How to Protect Yourself & Others: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>

<sup>5</sup> Burger, R., Christian, C., Maughan-Brown, B., Rensburg, R. and Rossouw, L. July 15, 2020. COVID-19 risk perception, knowledge and behaviour <https://cramsurvey.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Burger-COVID19-risk-perception-knowledge-and-behaviour-.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> UJ and HSRC (April 20, 2020). Coronavirus Impact Survey Summary Findings.

Durban and recommend the wearing of masks at the beginning of April. The Minister of Transport also highlighted the importance of masks in public transport around the same time.<sup>7</sup>

The confused messaging about the wearing of masks was added by the indecision of key organisations such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization, who had in the infancy days of the pandemic highlighted that masks ought to be worn by those that have symptoms (not specifically advising against them). This was said amidst contrary messaging from researchers, experts and countries that had dealt with pandemics before<sup>8</sup>. The WHO and the CDC have however, recently recommended that the general public should wear cloth masks. These shifts in guidelines could have sowed public confusion and reduced the use of masks<sup>9; 10</sup>.

Conflicting messages were also observed in different countries, for example a newspaper in Singapore's had a warning stating "Do not wear a mask if you are well," yet authorities were later announced to have plans to distribute four mask per household. Australia and Taiwan were also alleged to have announced that healthy people don't need masks, yet both countries have either released or have their populations widely wearing masks<sup>11</sup>.

In certain parts of Asia, the wearing face masks when people are sick or to counter urban pollution is common. Governments in Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam urged citizens to always be in possession of masks and hand sanitizers.

*There is no direct scientific evidence regarding wearing protective masks in public spaces for asymptomatic people, but mask protection is heavily practised in Asian populations and seems deeply despised in Western cultures<sup>12</sup>.*

A study by Marchiori<sup>13</sup> investigated if and how wearing personal protection equipment such as masks influenced social distancing and found that the absence of masks influences counterintuitive behaviour, which affected social distancing. The study found that using masks changed behaviour radically thus breaking the paradoxical behavior that led to unsafe social

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<sup>7</sup> Jordaan, N. April 01, 2020 You don't have to wear face masks, but you should: Zweli Mkhize: <https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2020-04-01-you-dont-have-to-wear-face-masks-but-you-should-zweli-mkhize/>

<sup>8</sup> Rubio-Romero, J.C., del Carmen Pardo-Ferreira, M., Torrecilla-García, J.A. and Calero-Castro, S. May 13, 2020. Disposable masks: Disinfection and sterilization for reuse, and non-certified manufacturing, in the face of shortages during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<sup>9</sup> Bai, N. June 26, 2020. Still Confused About Masks? Here's the Science Behind How Face Masks Prevent Coronavirus. <https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2020/06/417906/still-confused-about-masks-heres-science-behind-how-face-masks-prevent>

<sup>10</sup> Reuter (January 31, 2020). To mask or not to mask: Confusion spreads over coronavirus protection.

<https://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/to-mask-or-not-to-mask-confusion-spreads-over-coronavirus-protection/>

<sup>11</sup> Reuter (January 31, 2020). To mask or not to mask: Confusion spreads over coronavirus protection.

<https://www.sabcnews.com/sabcnews/to-mask-or-not-to-mask-confusion-spreads-over-coronavirus-protection/>

<sup>12</sup> Antoine Flahault, March 18, 2020. COVID-19 cacophony: is there any orchestra conductor? [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)30675-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30675-9)

<sup>13</sup> Marchiori, M. May 26, 2020. COVID-19 and the Social Distancing Paradox: Dangers and solutions.

distancing behaviour. Wearing masks was found to trigger a repulsive effect, influencing individuals to adopt an avoidance behaviour to gain social distance. People were even seen to step out of sidewalks to increase distance, confirming the effect of a visual stimulus as a distance boost. Masks were therefore, recommended not only to reduce the concentration of the viral load but also as to motivate improved social distancing measures<sup>14</sup>.

#### International literature: Evidence of masks use versus Covid-19 spread

A study that examined the role of face masks in mitigating the spread of COVID-19 used epidemic models to estimate the total reduction of infections and deaths under various scenarios. The study examined the optimal deployment of face masks when resources are limited, and explored a range of supply and demand dynamics. The study found that face masks, even with a limited protective effect, had the potential to reduce infections and deaths and also delay the peak time of the epidemic<sup>15</sup>. It was however, observed in the study that random distribution of masks had suboptimal outcomes as compared to prioritization of certain populations, especially the elderly and retaining a supply of masks for identified infectious cases.

A systematic review that had a total of 14 articles included that addressed the role of face masks in preventing respiratory viruses such as influenza, SARS and SARS-CoV-2 in communities and experimental setting suggested that early initiation of face masks was more effective and especially in cases where viruses are transmitted easily from asymptomatic individuals. The report however, added that the utility is reduced by inconsistent adherence to mask usage<sup>16</sup>.

A study on universal use of face masks for success against COVID-19 indicated that a meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials of surgical masks and N95 respirators were effective in preventing influenza-like illness among healthcare workers and similar results were obtained in five Hong Kong hospitals. The study asserts that the control of respiratory infections using face masks at source, is a well-established strategy, especially when there are asymptomatic cases because it reduces the viral load. This study therefore, strongly advocates for the universal use of face masks in public places as a means of source control during the COVID-19 pandemic and to complement social distancing and other hygiene measures. It argues that different forms of social distancing such as complete lockdown are not sustainable and that

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<sup>14</sup> Marchiori, M. May 26, 2020. COVID-19 and the Social Distancing Paradox: Dangers and solutions.

<sup>15</sup> Worby, C.J and Chang, H. 2020. Face mask use in the general population and optimal resource allocation during the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.04.20052696v1.full.pdf>

<sup>16</sup> Gupta, M., Gupta, K. and Gupta, S. 2020. The use of facemasks by the general population to prevent transmission of Covid 19 infection: A systematic review. <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.05.01.20087064v1.full.pdf>

universal masking protects against cross-transmission in public places where social distancing<sup>17</sup>. The authors reiterate the need for a high degree of compliance to maximise the impact of universal masking in public and strongly advocated for the use of cloth masks as a simple, economic and sustainable alternative to surgical masks for the general population in alignment with the recent CDC proposal.

### International literature: Barriers to the Wearing of Face Masks

Studies exploring barriers to the wearing of masks are scarce. There was however, a study conducted in 2018 on barriers to wearing masks to prevent influenza amongst adults in the US found that only 37.5 percent of the participants with a history of flu had worn face masks. The study found that a perceived barrier to face mask use was social interaction. Participants believed mask-wearing prevented them from perceiving and reading others' emotions. The study also found significant relationships between mask-wearing experience and perceived barriers, perceived benefits ( $p=0.028$ ), perceived risks ( $p= 0.003$ ), and social value ( $p=0.021$ ). Individuals with previous experiences of wearing masks perceived benefits in wearing masks and the importance of using masks to protect others.

There were however, sentiments from about 86 per cent of the participants that wearing face masks was uncomfortable even though about 81 per cent foresaw the importance to wearing masks to protect others<sup>18</sup>.

### Review of literature

As countries move towards universalising the use of face mask in public, they may lose sight of the rule of law. According to Alexandre Zouev, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, one of the challenges governments should not lose sight of when managing and containing the pandemic and promoting rapid and sustainable recovery is the rule of law<sup>19</sup>. Alexandre argues that a forceful and military driven response has the potential to bring about unintended consequences.

The literature reviewed therefore aims to uncover some of the countries that have introduced mandatory policies on the wearing of face masks and understand how these policies were introduced and learn from the different cases.

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<sup>17</sup> Esposito, S., Principi, N., Leung, C.C. and Migliori, G.B. June 18, 2020. Universal use of face masks for success against COVID-19: evidence and implications for prevention policies. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7191114/>

<sup>18</sup> A Study of Barriers to the Wearing of Face Masks by Adults in the US to Prevent the Spread of Influenza by Yu-wen Hung

<sup>19</sup> Zouev, A. 2020. COVID and the Rule of Law: A dangerous Balancing Act

## Countries with mandatory face mask regulations

Some countries have recommended the use of masks and other countries have made it mandatory<sup>20</sup> (refer to Annexure). According to Boffey, countries such as Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Poland and Spain have made the wearing of face masks in shops mandatory. Countries such as the United Kingdom and Singapore have advised the wearing of cloth masks than surgical masks to ensure sufficient supply of surgical masks for the health sector.

On April 08, 2020 the Republic of the Philippines published an ordinance mandating everyone to wear face masks or face coverings in public places to abate the spread of Covid-19 and also introduced penalties for violating the decree. This ordinance was published within exactly a month of Declaring a State of Public Health Emergency in the Philippines. On April 02, 2020 a Cabinet Secretary of the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases instructed citizens to wear any type of face mask or face covering in public areas. The Regulation gives authority to local governments to conduct and enforce disease surveillance and response systems to ensure containment of the virus and also asserts that local governments have implied power to do all things necessary, appropriate, or incidental to govern efficiently and effectively to promote general welfare and maintain peace and order<sup>21</sup>. Data on Covid-19 cases in the Philippines as of August 05, 2020 were 115 980 cases, 66 270 recoveries and 2 123 deaths<sup>22</sup>.

Below is a list of some of the countries that were deemed to have proposed and/or mandated the wearing of masks. The list also includes the number of cases, recoveries and deaths per country. The countries with a red highlight had also introduced fines for non-compliance.

Countries that have made mask wearing compulsory versus Covid-19 cases, recoveries and deaths			
Countries	Confirmed Cases	Recoveries	Deaths
Austria	21 566	19 464	719
Angola	1 344	503	59
Argentina	214 000	94 116	3 979
Bahrain	42 132	39 335	151
Benin	1 914	0	38
Bosnia and Herzegovina	12 856	6 592	373
Burkina Faso	1 153	947	54
Cameroon	17 255	15 320	387
Chile	365 000	338 000	9 792

<sup>20</sup> Boffey, D. July 16, 2020 Coronavirus: England's face mask law could backfire, says EU expert. *The Guardian*.

<sup>21</sup> Republic of the Philippines published an ordinance mandating everyone to wear face masks or face coverings in public places to abate the spread of Covid-19: <https://www.mandaluyong.gov.ph/updates/downloads/files/767%20-%20mandating%20use%20of%20mask.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.doh.gov.ph/2019-nCoV>

Colombia	335 000	180 000	11 315
Cuba	2 701	2 382	88
Czech Republic	17 387	11 900	388
Ecuador	88 866	59 344	5 847
El Salvador	18 701	9 111	498
Equatorial Guinea	4 821	2 182	83
Ethiopia	19 877	8 240	343
France	192 000	82 166	30 296
Gabon	7 646	5 408	51
Germany	212 000	194 000	9 232
Guinea	7 489	6 591	48
Honduras	44 299	5 921	1 400
Israel	76 763	51 331	564
Jamaica	920	745	12
Kenya	23 202	9 327	388
Lebanon	5 062	1 837	65
Liberia	1 216	698	78
Luxembourg	6 917	5 537	118
Morocco	27 217	19 629	417
Nigeria	44 433	31 851	910
Pakistan	281 000	254 000	6 104
Philippine	115 980	66 270	2 123
Poland	48 789	-	1 756
Qatar	112 000	108 000	177
Rwanda	2 099	1 222	5
Sierra Leone	1 855	1 397	67
Slovakia	2 417	1 777	29
South Africa	521 000	364 000	8 884
South Arabia: Gulf State	283 000	-	3 020
South Korea	14 456	13 406	302
Spain	306 000	-	28 499
Turkey	236 000	220 000	5 784
Uganda	1 213	1 073	5
United Arab Emirates	61 606	55 385	353
Venezuela	21 438	11 875	187
Vietnam	713	381	8
Zambia	6 793	5 109	173

Countries that proposed and/or mandated the wearing of masks in public in March included Venezuela, Vietnam, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Bosnia. Pakistan, Lebanon, South Korea, Spain, France, Uganda, Honduras and the South Arabia Gulf State were deemed to have introduced the wearing of masks in May and the rest of the countries in April 2020. Countries such as the Philippine Republic, Gulf State, Lebanon and Morocco also introduced a fine for non-compliance.



Institutions such as the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) and the WHO had not been upfront about use of cloth masks and had argued that there is no substantial evidence of their effectiveness<sup>23</sup>. As previously alluded, the CDC recently (July 2020) recommended the universal wearing of cloth face masks.

Asian countries such as China and Taiwan (cases: 476, recoveries: 441, deaths:7) have had a culture of wearing masks and have had experiences with pandemics. For example, in an article titled: A reality check on the use of face masks during the COVID-19 outbreak in Hong Kong, Victor et al. argues that having had experiences with pandemics, they respectfully differ from the recommendations of the WHO regarding the effectiveness of masks. They argue that community mass masking is one of the key measures that control transmissions during outbreaks in Hong Kong and China hence having experienced SARS or swine flu outbreaks, convincing them not to wear masks would be futile<sup>24</sup>. This assertion was also made by Zouev, who asserted that it is in the interest of governments to learn from previous pandemics and ensure that emergency restrictions on rights are necessary, proportionate, legal and time bound<sup>25</sup>.

### Implications of enforcing laws

A Chairman of the Metropolitan Police Federation (MPF) highlighted that enforcing a rule where the messaging from government ministers is incongruent makes enforcement close to being impossible. This media report highlighted that Labour argues that messaging from cabinet minister and public figures regarding the wearing of masks was incoherent, making enforcement near impossible. Boffey argues that mandating the wearing of masks requires enforcement lest it becomes public ridicule and loses its effectiveness<sup>26</sup>.

An over-emphasis on enforcement of law is argued to have a boomerang effect<sup>27</sup>. This was observed in countries that had increased the enforcement of Covid-19 regulations and penalised non-compliance through arrests. Boffey observed that this result was counterintuitive, as it countered the objective of decongesting prisons during the pandemic<sup>28</sup>. Certain state and local governments that had mandated, penalised and enforced the wearing of face coverings or masks

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<sup>23</sup> WHO, June, 05, 2020. Advice on the use of masks in the context of COVID-19: <https://apps.who.int/iris/rest/bitstreams/1279750/retrieve>

<sup>24</sup> Victor, C.W., Tama, Shing Yau Tama, Wai Kwong Poonb, Helen Ka Wai Lawa, Shara WY Leea, April, 24, 2020. A reality check on the use of face masks during the COVID-19 outbreak in Hong Kong

<sup>25</sup> Zouev, A. 2020. COVID and the Rule of Law: A dangerous Balancing Act

<sup>26</sup> Boffey, D. July 16, 2020 Coronavirus: England's face mask law could backfire, says EU expert. *The Guardian*.

<sup>27</sup> Boffey, D. July 16, 2020 Coronavirus: England's face mask law could backfire, says EU expert. *The Guardian*

<sup>28</sup> Zouev, A. 2020. COVID and the Rule of Law: A dangerous Balancing Act

in public spaces had also been observed to have an increase in lawsuits<sup>29</sup>. The enforcements of laws have also been found to have boomerang effects or unintended consequences such as the disproportionate use of force and other human rights violations.

*There is a risk that some states may utilize emergency powers to consolidate executive authority at the expense of the rule of law, suppressing dissent and undermining democratic institutions, especially where courts and other oversight bodies struggle to perform due to COVID-related restrictions<sup>30</sup>.*

In the United States for example, the introduction of mandatory masks created confusion since some states previously had anti-mask laws. In other states, people of colour were said to have expressed apprehension about the wearing masks for fear of arrest. According to the International Centre for not-for-profit Law, anti-mask laws inhibit public health response to COVID-19 and undermine the First Amendment<sup>31</sup>.

## Recommendations

As world leaders discuss joint action to contain and overcome the pandemic, they need to consider the need to avoid enduring harm to the rule of law and fundamental freedoms. This will help to avoid aggravating social tensions, grievances and underlying causes of conflict<sup>32</sup>.

Zouev asserts that it is in the interest of governments to learn from previous pandemics and ensure that emergency restrictions on rights are necessary, proportionate, legal and time bound<sup>33</sup>.

Even though there are assertions that masks have the potential to reduce infections where physical distancing is difficult, within public health, it is advised that mandatory policies ought to be avoided and that focus ought to be on persuading individuals and communities to change behaviour.

Create an enabling environment and redesign the social contexts to make it feasible to change behaviours. The provision of recommended preventive health products such as masks for free can help to ensure mass uptake.

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<sup>29</sup> Price, P.J. and Diaz, P.C. June 3, 2020. Face-Covering Requirements and the Constitution

<sup>30</sup> Zouev, A. 2020. COVID and the Rule of Law: A dangerous Balancing Act

<sup>31</sup> International Centre for not-for-profit Law. 2020. U.S. Current Trend: Anti-Mask Laws, COVID-19, and the First Amendment: <https://www.icnl.org/post/analysis/anti-mask-laws-covid-19-and-the-first-amendment>

<sup>32</sup> Zouev, A. 2020. COVID and the Rule of Law: A dangerous Balancing Act

<sup>33</sup> Zouev, A. 2020. COVID and the Rule of Law: A dangerous Balancing Act

Since mask-wearing and social distancing are social norms, a stronger community approach in creating local champions through partnerships with local faith groups, youth groups and small businesses or NPOs are also advised<sup>34</sup>..

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<sup>34</sup> Burger, R., Christian, C., Maughan-Brown, B., Rensburg, R. and Rossouw, L. July 15, 2020. COVID-19 risk perception, knowledge and behaviour <https://cramsurvey.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Burger-COVID19-risk-perception-knowledge-and-behaviour-.pdf>

## Annexures

### ***Annexure: Countries that have made mask wearing compulsory***

1. *March: Venezuela among the 1<sup>st</sup> countries: use of face masks in public mandatory.*
2. *March, 16: Vietnam: wearing face masks in public compulsory.*
3. *March, 18: Czech Republic was the 1<sup>st</sup> European country to mandate mask wearing in supermarkets, pharmacies, and public transport.*
4. *March, 25: Slovakia: President wore face mask to dispel stigma in a swearing-in ceremony of the new government.*
5. *March, 29: Bosnia and Herzegovina mandated wearing face mask or a cloth covering in public – on the streets or outside their homes.*
6. *April, 4: Colombia - face masks compulsory in public transport system and public areas such as stores, outdoor marketplaces and banks.*
7. *April, 4: United Arab Emirates announced compulsory wearing of face masks outside the home.*
8. *April, 06: Cuba - use of face masks in public spaces obligatory.*
9. *April, 06: Austria - masks mandatory in public spaces, and an acknowledgment of the need to adjust to the new norm.*
10. *April, 07: Ecuador - use of face masks in public spaces obligatory.*
11. *April, 07: North Africa, Morocco: wearing face masks mandatory and a warning of a fine and prison sentence of up to 3-months for non-compliance - 1,300 dirhams (\$130).*
12. *April, 07: Turkey ordered the wearing of masks when shopping or in crowded public places. Government promised to deliver free masks to every.*
13. *April, 08: Republic of Philippine: ordinance mandating everyone to wear face masks or face coverings in public places to abate the spread of Covid-19 and also introduced penalties for violating the decree*
14. *April, 08: El Salvador - face masks mandatory in public*
15. *April, 08: Chile's health ministry announced face masks to be worn in public transport.*
16. *April, 09: Cameroon imposed masks for people leaving their homes.*
17. *African countries: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, and Zambia proposed the wearing of masks*
18. *Early May: Nigeria state governors asked the President to approve the compulsory use of face masks in public.*
19. *April, 12: Israel made it mandatory for its citizens to wear face masks in public.*
20. *April, 14: Argentina - face masks obligatory in public transport and in public.*
21. *April, 16: Poland - Ministry of Health - covering of face with mask or homemade fabric such or scarf mandatory in green areas such as parks and beaches as in public places such as roads, squares, religious facilities, commercial facilities, and marketplaces.*
22. *April, 20: Luxembourg made the use of face masks mandatory in public places, such as public transport and supermarkets.*
23. *April, 21: Jamaica made it mandatory to wear a face mask in public spaces*

24. April, 21: South Africa DoH recommended the wearing of face or non-medical mask in public<sup>35</sup>.
25. April, 22: Germany - compulsory wearing of face masks on public transport and when shopping in all of its 16 states.
26. April, 22: Bahrain - compulsory wearing face masks in public for residents and shop workers.
27. April, 26: Qatar - use of face masks mandatory for government and private sector employees and clients, shoppers at food and catering stores and workers in the contracting sector.
28. May, 17: Gulf state - wearing masks in public mandatory and penalties of up to three years in jail and fines of as much as \$55,000.
29. May, 3: Honduras - face masks obligatory for people going outside their homes.
30. May, 5: President of Uganda - face masks obligatory for every one leaving their residents.
31. May, 10: France - use of face masks in public mandatory a day before easing lockdown.
32. May, 20: Spain - compulsory wearing of masks in indoor and outdoor public spaces for persons older than six years.
33. May, 26: South Korea - mandatory wearing of masks in public transport
34. May, 26: Lebanon announced the issuing of fines from May, 29 for violating mandatory face mask - fines up to 50,000 Lebanese pounds (\$33).
35. May, 30: Pakistan - compulsory wearing of face masks in crowded public spaces including mosques, bazaars, shopping malls and public transport.<sup>36</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> Department of Health, 2020. Use of cloth face-masks by members of the general public in South Africa during the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/2020/04/21/use-of-cloth-face-masks-by-members-of-the-general-public-in-south-africa-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

<sup>36</sup> Aljezeera, 2020. Which countries have made wearing face masks compulsory? <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/04/countries-wearing-face-masks-compulsory-200423094510867.html>