

## **57 reasons to have a facemask**



### ***Useful or useless?***

I recently visited a museum on the Isle of Man and as I approached the building, through the open front doors and clearly visible from the road outside, was a lady sat at the reception desk looking directly at me.

What was instantly evident was that she was wearing a disposable white paper facemask.

This was in July 2023, many months since Covid-19 rules and official guidance had lapsed.

My immediate reaction was surprise and it certainly was not the most welcoming or personable of sights to greet visitors to a public attraction.

But why was she wearing that facemask? For instance, did she genuinely think that the mask would protect her from an airborne virus? Or did she have a respiratory illness which she believed the facemask would prevent her from spreading to others?

Was she right or was she wrong in her thinking?

We will return to these two interesting questions a little later but in the meantime, are there any undisputed benefits of a facemask?

### **57 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE A DISPOSABLE FACEMASK:-**

1. Handy for wiping the car windscreen whilst driving.

2. Super for showing off freshly crimped curly eyelashes.
3. Constant use definitely hones *Charades* skills for Christmas parties.
4. Gently breathing in one's own warm breath in bed is comforting for those without a teddy bear to cuddle on cold nights.
5. Fantastic for hiding a botched collagen lip cosmetic procedure.



***Je Ne Regrette Nien.***

6. Wearing one provides automatic steam cleaning of spectacles, thereby reducing the need to purchase lens wipes.
7. A bald man on Bournemouth beach was reportedly seen bizarrely wearing 6 facemasks held together in a hexagonal shape with a central safety clip, as a sun hat.
8. Practical as a platform for scribbled political slogans such as *Lockdowns Don't Work*, *Covid Vaccines Harm* and *Truth will Out*.
9. Rumoured to have been used as a sling shot to catapult a custard pie at Boris Johnson on his way to *Chequers* Country House.
10. Brilliant for public virtue signalling, particularly when driving alone in your car.
11. *Liquorice Allsorts* or miniature Easter Eggs can be stored inside the mask to the side of the mouth for an instantly accessible snack.
12. Handy for removing earwax.

13. A Round The World yachtsman marooned on the uninhabited *Aldabra Atoll*, Seychelles Islands, apparently survived for 9 days by drinking rain water collected in his facemask.



***"Bon Voyage Sailor".***

14. Undoubtedly made the **World Lip Reading Championships** much more interesting.
15. An Irish horticulturist in Donegal remarkably stored 3 years' worth of toe nail clippings in a facemask, for use around his cabbage plants to stop slugs.
16. Invaluable for hiding suspicious red lipstick kiss marks.
17. As a daybed for a family of fluffy brown caterpillars on rainy days.
18. Facemasks were reportedly used as improvised bunting in Edinburgh to celebrate the arrest of Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon in June 2023 for alleged dishonesty offences.
19. When rolled up long ways and stuffed with hay, makes a delightful cigar for a snowman.
20. An elderly relative in Peel was spotted wearing a pale blue one as an eyepatch following a cataract operation.
21. Removing goldfish from bowl aquarium – quietly lower the facemask into the water then quickly lift when the unsuspecting creature swims directly above the trap.

22. A Swedish supermodel ingeniously used two masks tied together with string as an emergency bra in *St. Tropez* this summer.
23. Within easy reach for removing mascara.
24. Was recently used by a Welsh family on holiday in *Benidorm* to parachute chocolate truffles from a hotel balcony down to the swimming pool bar.
25. As an accident ligature if finger bitten by stray Poodle.
26. Convenient for impromptu blackberry picking in the countryside.
27. Certainly helpful for evading city centre facial recognition cameras.
28. When worn whilst sea snorkelling, said to reduce the risk of blowback (although increased deaths from asphyxiation are to be expected).
29. Habitual wearing of facemasks has led to a revival in the use of semaphore (and also revitalised *British Sign Language*).
30. Can be used as a crisis baby nappy.
31. Sommeliers report detecting intriguing flavours when wine tasting through facemasks, although a drinks expert in Burgundy was apparently left paralysed as a result of imbibing toxins present in a mask.
32. A snug travel hammock for two pet gerbils.
33. When worn during kissing, amorous couples report a much reduced need for *Listerine*.
34. Greatly assists suspects in Police ID parades.
35. They evened out competition at the annual **Yodelling Festival** in Basel, Switzerland.
36. Ice-lollies sales soared as children found it difficult to eat ice-cream through facemasks but could suck on lollies.
37. A canny jam maker called Mrs Quirk in the Cronk-y-Voddy used a facemask to strain homemade apple and rowan jelly when she ran out of muslin cloth.

38. Cuts out backchat when worn by a cheeky pet African parrot.



***I will not be silenced!***

39. Prolongs birthday merriment due to difficulty in blowing out candles on celebration cake.
40. When soaked with chloroform and kindly given to a visiting mother-in-law to wear, proved to be extremely effective in quelling family squabbles.
41. Breathing in one's own CO<sub>2</sub> reduces global oxygen consumption, the equivalent of growing one Cos lettuce in a vegetable patch.
42. When worn on the back of the head rather than on the face, rumoured to assist meeting those suffering from double vision.
43. As a makeshift *Babycham* wine chiller when filled with ice cubes.
44. A tiny mask fitted on a clock cuckoo in the Black Forest, Germany, greatly improved householders' nighttime sleep.
45. No.1 muzzle fan Matt Hancock reputedly decorated a Christmas tree last year using only disposable paper facemasks.

46. Masks make cute disposable galoshes for *miniature dachshunds*. Simply tie with a piece of yellow ribbon around each paw and your pet pooch will be the talk of the town!



***"I really don't want to wear those silly wellies".***

47. An enterprising restaurant in *Kyoto*, Japan has cleverly devised a special 5 course tasting menu using edible facemasks made from rice paper. Every course has a different impregnated flavour such as soy sauce, wasabi and sake. No cutlery required, just munch each mask whilst socialising at the table.
48. When perfumed with lavender oil a facemask makes an effective nosegay if having to use smelly blocked airport toilets.
49. Helpful for polishing conkers in the autumn.
50. If worn whilst eating at every mealtime undoubtedly a facemask is a very effective dietary aid.
51. Led to the introduction of a special class at the **British Gurning Championships**, held at Egremont, Cumbria.
52. May assist trainee astronauts experience light-headedness; helpful preparation for journeys into Outer Space.
53. Claimed to suffocate colonies of fleas and lice in men's beards.
54. When worn whilst swimming in outdoor pools completely stops flies being swallowed.
55. Expedient for spontaneous Bank Robbing.

56. Unverified research by a Mongolian Professor indicates continuous facemask wearing is the single most effective way to stop smoking cigarettes.
57. A resourceful Italian mountaineer suffering from severe frostbite on *Mont Blanc* in January 2022 reportedly used a disposable facemask to protect his delicate private parts before being rescued by helicopter.



***On Mont Blanc manhood was miraculously saved by a flimsy facemask.***

Returning now to the woman sat at the museum reception desk wearing a disposable facemask. Is there any scientific research or empirical evidence which can sensibly assist answering the two questions we posed earlier?

The Cochrane organisation is a highly respected not-for-profit body, with a worldwide reputation for excellence in the review of clinical and scientific research.

The **Cochrane Review** dated 30<sup>th</sup> January 2023 carefully considered 78 studies (randomised control trials) from around the world, creating a meta-analysis of the available data.

The purpose of the Review was to assess the effectiveness of physical interventions (such as facemasks) to reduce the spread of respiratory viruses.

The perhaps surprising conclusions were as follows:-

- a) *"Compared with wearing no mask in the community, wearing a mask may make little to no difference in how many people caught a flu-like virus/Covid-like illness".*

- b) *"The pooled results of randomised control trials did not show a reduction in respiratory viral infection with the use of medical/surgical masks".*
- c) Interestingly, with regard to N95/P2 respirators (closely fitting masks commonly used by healthcare workers) the Review also concluded that, *"There are no clear differences between the use of medical/surgical masks compared with N95-P2 respirators in healthcare workers when used in routine care to reduce respiratory viral infection".*

The lead author of the Cochrane Review, Dr Tom Jefferson of Oxford University, stated very clearly that, **"THERE IS JUST NO EVIDENCE THAT THEY (FACEMASKS) MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE"**.

And so, just like *Heinz' 57* varieties of sauces and pickles, there are 57 good reasons to have a facemask, but wearing one to protect yourself or others is definitely not one of them.

It therefore logically follows that any legal or mandatory requirement to wear a facemask for example in a hospital or on public transport or in a government building would be unjustified.

It has recently been reported that a new Covid variant called *Pirola* (also known as Covid-BA2.86) is currently circulating in the UK.

If anyone believes that wearing a facemask will properly protect them from so called *Pirola* or indeed any respiratory virus, they plainly need to think again.

See link below to Cochrane Review.

[https://www.cochrane.org/CD006207/ARI\\_do-physical-measures-such-hand-washing-or-wearing-masks-stop-or-slow-down-spread-respiratory-viruses](https://www.cochrane.org/CD006207/ARI_do-physical-measures-such-hand-washing-or-wearing-masks-stop-or-slow-down-spread-respiratory-viruses)