

File No: RTI-K-MoHFW-Masks

Date: Saturday, May 26, 2020

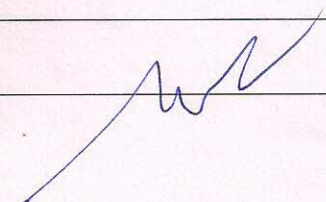
**APPLICATION UNDER SECTION 6(1)  
OF THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005**

To:

Sri. Jawaid Akhtar, IAS,  
Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Karnataka, Health & Family Welfare Services,  
#105, I Floor, Vikas Soudha, Bangalore - 560 001.

- Please quote our file reference in all your replies**
- Please permit me to inspect files held by you relevant to the subject matter of this RTI application**
- Please reply in the language of the application, namely, English**

<b>1. Full name of the applicant</b>	Mathew Thomas
<b>2. Address</b>	Villa # 2, 'Aristos', 'Sobha City, Bangalore 560077;  ☎ : Mobile: 98800-00401; ✉ : <a href="mailto:mathew.111938@gmail.com">mathew.111938@gmail.com</a>
<b>3. Details of the information/ documents required:</b> Please furnish :	
<p>As per government notifications the wearing of masks is compulsory, while in any public place. Fines up to ₹ 1,000 were imposed on people found not wearing masks. This is an order that has affected the entire people of our Nation. It is, hence, a matter of great public importance. As per Section 4 (1) (c) and (d) of RTI Act, the government is to make public the reasons for any of its decision to affected persons. Since, the decision to make compulsory the use of masks affects the entire country, the reasons for this decision are to be made public. Please give the following information and documents listed below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>The reasons for making wearing of masks compulsory for the entire population in all public places</li><li>Copy of any document containing advice given by health experts in or outside government on the use of masks.</li><li>Copy of any document or minutes of meetings wherein the recommendations of the World Health Organisation (WHO) on wearing of masks was considered BEFORE the decision to make use of masks in public places compulsory. (<i>I have attached to this application an extract from the WHO website.</i>)</li><li>Copy of any document or minutes of meetings which shows that the fact that only <b><u>medical masks</u></b> protect the people in public places and the wearers from infection and that <b><u>substituting medical masks</u></b> with scarfs or kerchiefs not only does not protect but, carries risks of infection due to dirt and contamination, and that the poor people (numbering perhaps, around 400 million) cannot afford to buy medical masks and forcing them to tie scarfs or other dirty cloth around their face would be counterproductive, was considered BEFORE the decision to make wearing of masks compulsory.</li><li>e.</li></ol>	
<b>4. Year to which the document pertains</b>	2019 to 15-05-2020



<p><b>5. Designation and address of the Public Information Officer</b></p>	<p>Sri. Jawaid Akhtar, IAS,          Additional Chief Secretary to Govt. of Karnataka,          Health &amp; Family Welfare Services,          #105, I Floor, Vikas Soudha, Bangalore - 560 001.</p> <p>☎ : 080-22255324, 080-22034234, Fax:080-22353916, 080-25356761(R)</p> <p>✉ : prs-hfw@karnataka.gov.in</p>
<p><b>6. Particulars of initial fee of Rs. 10 paid</b></p>	<p>Indian Postal Order Number:  <b>49F 263592</b></p>

**BANGALORE**  
**DATE: 26-May-2020**

**SIGNATURE OF THE APPLICANT**

Attachments :

1. WHO FAQs17-04-2020-Extract on Masks-23-05-2020

4. Year in which the document pertains: 2019 to 15-05-2020

3. Details of the informational documents requested:

As per government notification the wearing of masks is compulsory while in any public place. Fines up to ₹ 1000 were imposed on people found not wearing masks. This is an order that has affected the entire people of our nation. It is hence a matter of great public importance. As per Section 4 (j) and (k) of RTI Act, the government is to make public the reasons for any of its decision to affected persons. Since the decision to make compulsory the use of masks affects the entire country, the reasons for this decision are to be made public. Please give the following information and documents listed below.

- The reasons for making wearing of masks compulsory for the entire population in all public places.
- Copy of any document containing advice given by health experts in or outside government on the use of masks.
- Copy of any document or minutes of meetings wherein the recommendations of the World Health Organisation (WHO) on wearing of masks was considered BEFORE the decision to make use of masks in public places compulsory. (I have attached to this application an extract from the WHO website.)
- Copy of any document or minutes of meetings which show that the fact that only medical masks protect the people in public places and the wearing of other masks and that substituting medical masks with scarves or handkerchiefs not only does not protect but carries risks of infection due to dirt and contamination, and that the poor people (numbering perhaps around 400 million) cannot afford to buy medical masks and forcing them to the scarves or other dirty cloth around their face would be counter-productive, was considered BEFORE the decision to make wearing of masks compulsory.

4. Year in which the document pertains: 2019 to 15-05-2020

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>

### **Does WHO recommend wearing medical masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19?**

Currently, there is not enough evidence for or against the use of masks (medical or other) in healthy individuals in the wider community. However, WHO is actively studying the rapidly evolving science on masks and continuously updates its guidance.

**Medical masks** are recommended primarily in health care settings, but can be considered in other circumstances (see below). Medical masks should be combined with other key infection prevention and control measures such as hand hygiene and physical distancing.

#### **Healthcare workers**

**Why?** Medical masks and respirators such as N95, FFP2 or equivalent are recommended for and should be reserved for, healthcare workers while giving care to patients. Close contact with people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 and their surrounding environment are the main routes of transmission, which means healthcare workers are the most exposed.

#### **People who are sick and exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19**

**Why?** Anyone who is sick, with mild symptoms such as muscle aches, slight cough, sore throat or fatigue, should isolate at home and use a medical mask according to WHO's recommendation on home care of patients with suspected COVID-19. Coughing, sneezing or talking can generate droplets that cause can spread the infection. These droplets can reach the face of others nearby and land on the surrounding environment. If an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks while wearing a medical mask, this can help to protect those nearby from infection. If a sick person needs to go to a health facility they should wear a medical mask.

#### **Anyone taking care of a person at home who is sick with COVID-19**

**Why?** Those caring for individuals who are sick with COVID-19 should wear a medical mask for protection. Again, close, frequent and prolonged contact with someone with COVID-19 puts caretakers at high risk. National decision makers may also choose to recommend medical mask use for certain individuals using a risk-based approach. This approach takes into consideration the purpose of the mask, risk of exposure and vulnerability of the wearer, the setting, the feasibility of use and the types of masks to be considered.

### **How to properly wear a medical mask?**

If you choose to wear a mask:

1. Before touching the mask, clean hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water
2. Take the mask and inspect it for tears or holes.
3. Orient which side is the top side (where the metal strip is).
4. Ensure the proper side of the mask faces outwards (the coloured side).
5. Place the mask to your face. Pinch the metal strip or stiff edge of the mask so it moulds to the shape of your nose.
6. Pull down the mask's bottom so it covers your mouth and your chin.
7. Do not touch the mask while you are wearing it for protection.
8. After use, take off the mask with clean hands; remove the elastic loops from behind the ears while keeping the mask away from your face and clothes, to avoid touching potentially contaminated surfaces of the mask.
9. Discard the mask in a closed bin immediately after use. Do not reuse the mask.

10. Perform hand hygiene after touching or discarding the mask – Use alcohol-based hand rub or, if visibly soiled, wash your hands with soap and water.

Be aware that there is a global shortage of medical masks (both surgical masks and N95 masks). These should be reserved as much as possible for health care workers.

Remember that masks are not a substitute for other, more effective ways to protect yourself and others against COVID-19 such as frequently washing your hands, covering your cough with the bend of elbow or tissue and maintain a distance of at least 1 meter from others. See [basic protective measures against the new coronavirus](#) for more information.

Follow the advice of your national health authority on the use of masks.





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\* Consignment Number

EK074033363IN

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Booked At	Booked On	Destination Pincode	Tariff	Article Type	Delivery Location	Delivery Confirmed On
Kalyananagar S.O	28/05/2020 14:40:03	560001	17.70	Inland Speed Post	Bengaluru G.P.O.	01/06/2020 16:33:54

### Event Details For : EK074033363IN

#### Current Status : Item Dispatched

Date	Time	Office	Event
02/06/2020	13:58:29	Bengaluru G.P.O.	Item Dispatched
02/06/2020	13:55:25	Bengaluru G.P.O.	Item Bagged
01/06/2020	16:33:54	Bengaluru G.P.O.	Item Delivery Confirmed
01/06/2020	11:35:20	Bengaluru G.P.O.	Out for Delivery
01/06/2020	08:37:17	Bengaluru G.P.O.	Item Received
30/05/2020	13:41:52	Bengaluru NSH	Item Bagged
30/05/2020	12:33:37	Bengaluru NSH	Item Received
28/05/2020	15:37:29	Kalyananagar S.O	Item Dispatched
28/05/2020	15:29:28	Kalyananagar S.O	Item Bagged
28/05/2020	14:40:03	Kalyananagar S.O	Item Booked

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