

New Mexico Medical Advisory Team (MAT) Assessment

MAT Workgroup Name: Clinical Care- Innovations subgroup

Date: April 8, 2020

Question or request:

1. Manufacturing of cotton masks with HEPA filters for healthcare worker use
2. Manufacturing of cotton masks for general public use

Recommendation/s in bullet form:

1. This technology has potential, but needs to be tested for particle filtration by a scientific lab; until such time, it is not recommended for healthcare worker use.
2. Cloth masks for general public use should be utilized in alignment with CDC guidance and recommendations.

Assessment:

The Innovation subgroup cannot provide any further guidance about the efficacy or safety of cloth masks lined with HEPA filters until they are tested for particle filtration. This alternative material is neither FDA approved nor recommended by the CDC. Absent particle filtration data (such as that available for Halyard material) the subgroup does not believe this would meet Crisis Standards of Care at this time.

The CDC has updated its guidance, and now (in addition to continued social distancing) is “advising the use of simple cloth face coverings to slow the spread of the virus and help people who may have the virus and do not know it from transmitting it to others. Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.” “CDC recommends wearing cloth face coverings in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain (e.g., grocery stores and pharmacies), especially in areas of significant community-based transmission.”

Red flags and concerns: Per CDC, “the cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.”

Contributors:

MAT Clinical Care – Clinical Innovation Subgroup

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- Dan Schlegel (Governor’s Office)

Level of Consensus: Total

Resources/Reference:

CDC Cloth Face Coverings Recommendation: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

CDC Cloth Face Coverings Instructions: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

CDC Cloth Face Coverings FAQ: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-faq.html>