

**To:** (10)(2e) <(10)(2e)@minvws.nl>  
**From:** (10)(2e) <(10)(2e)@minvws.nl>  
**Sent:** Wed 8/12/2020 10:20:03 AM  
**Subject:** FW: HSC audio meeting 6/8/20: draft summary report for comments  
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**Van:** (10)(2e) <(10)(2e)@minvws.nl>  
**Verzonden:** woensdag 12 augustus 2020 12:07  
**Aan:** (10)(2e) <(10)(2e)@minvws.nl>  
**Onderwerp:** FW: HSC audio meeting 6/8/20: draft summary report for comments

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**Van:** (10)(2e) <(10)(2e)@minvws.nl>  
**Datum:** dinsdag 11 aug. 2020 2:04 PM  
**Aan:** Coronateam PG <(10)(2e)@minvws.nl>, (10)(2e) <(10)(2e)@minvws.nl>, (10)(2e) <(10)(2e)@minvws.nl>  
**Onderwerp:** FW: HSC audio meeting 6/8/20: draft summary report for comments

Dag allen,

Bijgaand de terugkoppeling van de HSC audiomeeting van 6 augustus. Ook bijgevoegd

- Rapid risk assessment van de ECDC
- School testing guidelines van de ECDC
- Schools and COVID-19 transmission van de ECDC

Nieuw in de rapid risk assessment was oa. een conclusie over het gebruik van mondkapjes in het openbaar. Onderstaand, met geel gearceerd de belangrijkste conclusie. Deze conclusie komt grotendeels overeen met de insteek van NL.

Groet,

(10)(2e)

#### Using face masks in the community

There is increasing evidence showing the effect of face masks for the prevention of SARS-CoV-2 transmission. In a recent systematic review, Chu et al. determined that on average there was more than a five-fold reduction of the transmission risk, from 17.4% with no face mask to 3.1% with a face mask (e.g. N95, surgical, or 12-16 layer cotton mask) [55]. In healthcare settings, stronger positive associations have been found with the use of FFP2 respirators than with the use of medical masks or similar. In addition, several other studies on the use of either medical or non-medical face masks in the community have provided evidence on the efficacy of this measure at individual [60-62] and population level [63,64]. The evidence shows that wearing masks is not only effective in reducing the spread of the virus through respiratory secretions (source control), but also in protecting the individuals that wear them correctly from contracting COVID-19.

**Based on the available evidence, implementing the use of face masks in the community when physical distancing cannot be guaranteed should be strongly considered, both indoors (e.g. supermarkets, shops and public transport) and in overcrowded outdoor situations, in areas with increased incidence of COVID-19.**

**The key to the effectiveness of using face masks in the community is good compliance [65], and proper and rational recommendations (unnecessary in non-crowded, well-ventilated open spaces), which can be improved by means of appropriate risk communication methods.**

Concerns that mandatory face mask usage would generate a false sense of security that could decrease adherence to other types of protective behaviour, such as physical distancing, have been shown to be unfounded in several studies [67,68]. The decision to issue a strong national recommendation or make the use of face masks mandatory in community settings should take into account the local context, the availability of face masks for the public (which should not compromise the availability of face masks for health and social care workers), the socio-political situation and resources available to monitor the implementation of any mandatory measure.

Nevertheless, the use of masks in the community should not be considered as the main single cover-all measure, but should be combined with other essential measures, particularly respiratory etiquette. Recently Hong Kong, which has a long-standing mask-wearing culture, faced a second wave of COVID-19 infection attributed to increased contact between persons, importations and limited capacity to isolate confirmed cases [69].

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**Van:** (10)(2e) <(10)(2e)@ec.europa.eu>  
**Verzonden:** vrijdag 7 augustus 2020 11:42

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**Aan:** (10)(2e) [@ec.europa.eu](mailto:@ec.europa.eu)

**Onderwerp:** HSC audio meeting 6/8/20: draft summary report for comments

Dear Members of the Health Security Committee,  
Dear Colleagues,

Attached you will find the draft Summary Report from the HSC audio meeting held on 6 August 2020.

Please send us your comments by Monday 10 August noon.

Thank you,

HSC Secretariat