



The Israeli National Mask

Background:

The Ministry of Health and the defense establishment are pursuing a joint venture aimed at producing an adequate supply of high-quality, reusable, Ministry of Health approved fabric masks for the entire Israeli population, to help reduce the infection rate by increasing the number of mask wearers.

The mask development project has been led by the defense establishment, with the participation of the defense industries and textile experts. The masks have been developed in close consultation with Ministry of Health professionals and under its auspices, with emphasis on the use of breathable safety fabric that provides effective protection for the user.

Public Service Equipment:

The mask specification is available to the public on the Ministry of Health website and is intended to assist any public or private body to produce and distribute high quality, reusable, Ministry of Health approved fabric masks. Website: <https://go.gov.il/masks-production-en>.

The website includes an Extended Production Manual for a Personal Kit, which includes three reusable, washable masks. The kit includes an information leaflet on the proper use of masks, in Hebrew, Arabic, Amharic, Russian, English and other languages.

Pilot project in hotspots:

The production manual has been used to manufacture 300,000 masks (100,000 Personal Kits) that have been distributed at hotspots in Israel, such as Beit Shemesh, Beitar Illit, Modi'in Illit, and Baqa al-Gharbiyye, in order to prevent a massive increase in the number of patients in these areas. During distribution, training was provided to the population on correct use of the masks, based on the information leaflet in the Personal Kit, with the aim of nurturing a culture of wearing masks in public spaces.

The distribution plan is based on the epidemiological data distributed by the Ministry of Health, and is implemented by the local authorities, which are making available all the information and distribution measures at their disposal.

Social Project—Local Production:

The entire production chain for these 300,000 masks is Israeli, and employs hundreds of tailors in Israeli workshops, from Metula in the north to Mitzpe Ramon in the south, and from home workshops to industrial centers, with a view to reinvesting the budget into the Israeli economy, and providing an income for tailors throughout Israel. The venture is thus revitalizing the textile industry, which was the pride of the country in its early days, and which has now all but disappeared.

Summary:

The venture is creating a uniform and open standard for reusable, Ministry of Health approved fabric masks, whereby any manufacturer can produce and distribute high-quality masks to the public. It is also providing the population in hotspots with an initial supply of 300,000 masks manufactured according to the standard, with the aim of creating a proper mask-wearing culture and reducing the spread of the disease in these centers. Finally, the venture is reinvesting all its resources in the Israeli economy.

Public Images: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1G3igQ0zRX_M_6z3MPpu_haMhKHvzAu2-23

