



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Health  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

February 7, 2020

**DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR**

No. 2020 - 0045

**TO: GENERAL PUBLIC AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED**

**SUBJECT: Public Advisory No. 8 on the Use of Masks**

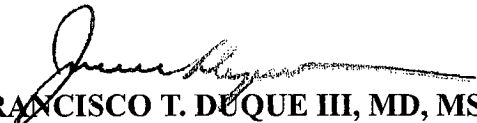
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The public is enjoined to judiciously use masks to prevent the shortage of surgical masks and N95 masks.

1. People in good health do NOT need to use face masks.
2. Use of surgical face masks is ONLY recommended for:
  - a. Persons caring for the sick
  - b. Persons with respiratory infection/symptoms coughing, sneezing, and/or have fever
  - c. Healthcare and other frontline workers (e.g. BI, PNP)
3. N95 masks must be reserved for healthcare and other frontline workers who are:
  - a. Attending to patients with respiratory infection/symptoms (cough, colds) or patients under investigation
  - b. Entering rooms of PUIs or confirmed nCoV patients to provide care or clean/disinfect the environment, or obtain clinical specimens (note: with complete PPE)
  - c. Handling clinical specimens, soiled medical supplies or equipment, or come in contact with potentially contaminated environmental surfaces

**In all settings, masks should be used in combination with frequent hand hygiene with alcohol-based hand rubs or soap/water.**

Dissemination of the information to all concerned is requested

  
**FRANCISCO T. DUQUE III, MD, MSc**  
Secretary of Health