



Folkhälsomyndigheten

Re Face mask used by the public

The main question that remains unanswered is how important is the spread by asymptomatic cases.

The reference 3 that surgical masks are effective is one study comparing cloth to surgical masks and shows that surgical is superior in protecting health personnel. If that can imply that surgical masks are effective in stopping spread from individuals in the public and how needs further discussion

The argument for and evidence for an effect of face covering to limit the spread from asymptomatic persons is not clear in the present document. It seems to build on a number of assumptions none of the verified or quantified.

The arguments against are at least as convincing.

The fact that it in non-infected individuals might increase the risk is mentioned but not taken into account

In addition to those the communication would be very difficult since most countries so far as argued against them.

It would also imply that the spread is airborne which would seriously harm further communication and trust among the population and health care workers

It is then very difficult how the conclusions can be reached even if they are carefully worded

In conclusion we would like to warn against the publication of this advice