

9 April 2020

**Guidance on the
USE OF FACEMASKS BY UN PERSONNEL
in context of COVID-19**

Regarding the provision and use of facemasks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) by UN personnel in context of COVID-19, the UN Medical Directors (UNMD) provide the following consensus advice:

1. Recognized (e.g. CE marked) PPE shall be provided by the Organization for personnel undertaking tasks where PPE is required, based on a workplace risk assessment and guided by the UN Medical Directors [Health Risk Mitigation Plan for COVID-19](#)
2. Employing organizations may be able to provide limited support for PPE to staff and dependents depending on local customs and subject to logistic and financial constraints, however there is no entitlement to these items. Under no circumstances should PPE be provided outside the framework of the [UNMD Risk Mitigation Plan](#) where there are local shortages affecting healthcare workers. In those locations UN stocks should be reviewed with a view to supplying local healthcare facilities through an appropriate mechanism.
3. Staff are encouraged to take all measures seen as reasonable and as recommended by local health authorities in their location to manage exposure such as working from home, physical distancing, hand hygiene and the use of non-medical face coverings.
4. For further guidance regarding the use of face masks in the context of COVID-19 please review the most [recent interim advice from WHO](#).