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# Face masks, respiratory patients and COVID-19

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**Exemptions of respiratory patients on the compulsory use of face masks for COVID-19 pandemic are not evidence-based** <https://bit.ly/2DTu7Y0>

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## To the Editor:

Several countries have applied exemptions of respiratory patients on the compulsory use of face masks indoors and outdoors during the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. It must be strongly stated that such exemption is not evidence-based, and it may carry increased risk of personal infection to the estimated 544.9 million people worldwide suffering a chronic respiratory disease [1].