



Zurich, 14. May 2020



## New «Community Mask» protects and relieves

**After the first easing of the lockdown measures, the Swiss federal government recommends wearing masks in public. These “new community masks” are designed to relieve the healthcare system with disposable masks and carry a specially developed test label.**

The recommendations of the Swiss government are clear: In everyday situations such as in public transport or when shopping, a mask should be worn when “social distancing” is not possible. Nevertheless, you only see a minority of people wearing masks on public transport or in the supermarket. On the one hand, masks are not yet available everywhere, and on the other hand, the two types of mask that have been widely used until now (FFP and medical mask) are only suitable for everyday use to a limited extent.

For this reason, the Swiss National COVID-19 Science Taskforce has developed a new recommendation for so-called “community masks”. These textile masks should not only protect, but also be washable and comfortable to wear. Not only trust, but also wearing comfort will play a role in deciding whether the new masks will be accepted - this is something the experts in the government agree on. Brigadier Markus Näf, Procurement Coordinator Corona VBS, emphasises: "The production of standardised fabric masks in Switzerland will provide lasting relief for the supply of disposable masks."

The new “TESTEX Community Mask” label that summarizes the test procedures developed by the Empa and Testex are aimed at creating trust. Products with this label meet the requirements for filter function, splash resistance, wearing comfort, reusability and textile tolerance. Several Swiss textile companies are currently producing large quantities of washable community masks. They hope that community masks with the new label will shape our everyday lives and thus contribute to containing and overcoming the corona crisis.

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<https://we.tl/t-OSkgnVGkCu>



New "TESTEX Community Mask" label for textile masks in public spaces.



"Community masks" with labels provide security in public spaces.



Textile "community masks" from Swiss production are starting to come onto the market. They are washable and bear the "TESTEX Community Mask" label.



Textile masks with the new label «TESTEX Community Mask» offer security according to the new Swiss government's recommendations.

### About the new Community Mask

You can find more information about the "Community Mask" at:  
[www.testex.com/de/communitymask](http://www.testex.com/de/communitymask) (the webpage will soon be available in English)

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You can find the Empa press release here (in German):  
<https://www.empa.ch/web/s604/coronamasken>

TESTEX is a globally operating, independent Swiss testing and certification organisation with focus on textile and leather testing. Founded in 1846 and originally known as the "Seidentrocknungsanstalt Zurich" (Silk Conditioning Institute), the TESTEX Group now operates more than 25 branches with around 300 employees worldwide (including TESTEX and OETI) from its head office in Zurich. TESTEX is a member institute of the OEKO-TEX® Association and the official representative in Australia, Canada, the P.R. China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Switzerland, South Korea and Taiwan. Learn more on [testex.com](https://testex.com) / [oeti.biz](https://oeti.biz) and [Wikipedia](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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