



The Safety Chain

August 2020

Kentucky Wing CAP
Lt Col Keith W. Noe, CAP

Commanders and Safety Officers, please share this with all of your members.

Here are the answers to which the July 2020 edition of The Safety Chain “Mask” questions are based on. Your answers may not be exactly the same as mine. The intent for us is to learn about how we are fighting the COVID-19 virus today. What we will see in my answers is that we are fighting COVID-19 about the same way the Spanish flu was battled. By the way, even though we call it the Spanish flu, it did not originate in Spain.

The wearing of masks in 1918-1919 was as much of a problem then as it appears to be today. Before reviewing my answers, please note that we are in the heat of summer and 90+ degree days are mounting up. We still have about 8 weeks of summer left. If you are spending time outside be sure to drink plenty of water, use sun screen and take ample rest breaks, and don't forget to use your mask if you cannot keep socially distant from others of at least 6 feet.

This morning as I was reading the news I read where campers in a Georgia overnight camp where many contracted the COVID-19 virus. Even through staff wore masks, campers did not. The youth ranged in ages under 12 years old to late teens. You can follow this link on the CDC website to learn more.

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6931e1.htm>

I was asked what is the prize if someone gets all of the answers correct. I had not thought about this before I sent the July newsletter out. Bragging rights, yes, “bragging rights” that you scored a 100%. The next step may be initialing a safety award for the person or persons who get all of the answers correct. Thank you for those who made the suggestions.

Should you need assistance I can be reached by telephone at 812.207-5350 and through eMail at knoe@kywg.cap.gov

Semper Vigilans

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Answers to the July 2020 Quiz:

Here is your first question, it has two parts. What is the earliest first time that face-like objects were worn covering a person's mouth was worn and where was this evidence found?

The earliest recorded face mask-like objects in history date to the 6th century BC. Some images of people wearing cloth over their mouths were found on the doors of Persian tombs.

Here is your second question. According to the *Travels of Marco Polo* servants were required to wear masks. Why were servants required to wear a mask?

Servants who served the emperor during meals needed to wear silk scarves to cover their mouths and noses. It was believed that the silk scarves would keep the servants' breath from impacting the smell and taste of the food.

Now for your third question. What famous painter proposed soaking water in a cloth and placing it on his face in order to filter out toxic chemicals coming from people's respiratory systems? By the way, this effective method is still widely used in fire escape guides today.

In the 16th century, famous painter Leonardo da Vinci proposed soaking cloth in water and placing it on his face in order to filter out toxic chemicals coming from people's respiratory systems. This effective method is still widely used in fire escape guides today.

Time for your fourth question? Who obtained a patent for a protective mask used by miners? Bonus questions: When did this inventor apply for his patent and what is the patent number?

In 1848, the mask made by American Lewis Hassley for miners obtained the first patent for a protective mask, which was a milestone in the history of face masks. Masks at this stage were closer to gas masks. Hassley applied for the patent in 1849 with the patent number 6529, which is still available in the archives in the US.

Question number 5. Who was the French chemist who proved the presence of bacteria in the air and in what year?

In 1861, French biologist, microbiologist and chemist Louis Pasteur proved the presence of bacteria in the air, which made more people pay attention to the design of modern masks.

Question number 6. What is the name of the Chinese medical scientist who invented a mask constructed by using two layers of gauze. As an added bonus, what was the name of his mask? A second bonus, what dynasty did this mask get invented?

During the late Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), Chinese medical scientist Wu Liande invented a mask made of two layers of gauze called "Wu's mask" in response to a plague in Northeast China. This mask was highly complimented by experts in different countries as it is simple to manufacture, has a low production cost and the materials are easy to obtain.

Question 7. What is the meaning of "95" for the N95 mask?

N95 means that the mask filters out 95% of particles 0.3 microns and larger in size.

Question 8. What were some of the mandates made during the influenza pandemic of 1918 and 1919? Two follow up questions for this one. Approximately how many people were killed world-wide and how approximately how many in the United States?

Cities across the country shut down churches and schools, required residents to wear masks, and erected makeshift hospitals to help fight the disease. Military personnel told to gargle saltwater as a preventive measure against the contagion, since the virus was thought to be spread by nasal and throat mucus. Mask-wearing was widely adopted in the US. Cities mandated that residents wear masks at all times, a requirement that lasted well after quarantines ended in some locales. Cities like St. Louis, Missouri, were more proactive in initially addressing the spread of the flu by enforcing social distancing early on, a feat that proved useful in stunting the spread of the flu. Some public health officials believed that fresh air counteracted the spread of the virus, so some events like court proceedings were held outside.

The number of deaths was estimated to be at least 50 million worldwide with about 675,000 occurring in the United States.

By now you probably know more about masks than before. As you can see the use and wearing of masks has a long history. As you can see this is not the first time in the history of the United States where masks have become mandated.

Wearing a mask when you are out in public may not 100% minimize your risk of catching the COVID-19 virus, but it certainly does reduce your risk, both getting the virus and spreading the virus. The day will come when we can meet face-to-face again. The more everyone wears a mask out in public, make proper use of sanitizer, the sooner the virus will become a thing of the past. We can do this.