

# Masks and Toilet Paper for the People

Dear Representative,

In this time of crisis, we need a response in substance, not demanding face masks but providing them to all the people, as well as toilet paper.

## Crunch Time

Finally, there is a growing consensus that everyone needs to wear a protective face mask of some type whenever they venture out of Stay-At-Home isolation. This month of April, 2020 is also now expected to see the apex of critical infections counts for COVID-19 in major regions throughout the United States. Additionally, due to the need for at least 2-weeks of toilet paper, water and all vital nutrients to be at hand whenever quarantines are imposed, the stockpiling of so many products are forced upon us, resulting in market shortages, overpricing and long lines at grocery stores. These long lines also eventually only add to the growing body count, even when social distancing is practiced.

## Mass Distribution - Package of Hope

Solution 1, we propose, is the mass distribution of face masks and toilet paper to all households throughout the nation. Direct delivery. No soup lines. No parking lot distribution stands. Some food banks offer home delivery, which are extremely beneficial, but are narrowly localized and limited in product variety. The solution is direct delivery to every house by UPS, FedEx and other carriers, all wearing face masks. No application forms or needs assessments required. To be honest, no one really owns this disease, but we all have to work together in order for opportunistic and timely damage control. Efforts must also be made to distribute these **packages of hope** to people who are currently [homeless](#), undocumented or institutionalized through appropriate networks and organizations.

***Lockdowns and mandated isolation or Stay-At-Home measures may theoretically slow the infection spread rate, but so many households and homeless camps are already infected and too often only dead bodies identify the sick, as pointed out in a recent interview between [Amy Goodman and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez](#). The first and most important frontline to battle this disease is the individual household, apartment or tent. This front must be treated and tested before the gates are opened. These constitute the germ seeds of the second wave, including infected individuals with no symptoms (asymptomatic), estimated to be as numerous as one-fourth of all cases, according to Robert Redfield, the director of the [Centres for Disease Control and Prevention](#).***

## Face Mask Resources

Let's entreat our popular sports teams and franchises to voluntarily design and manufacture the millions of face masks we need as sports face masks, each with the team or franchise logo prominently displayed. This will not only give the teams more presence during this crisis, but will also motivate more people to feel good about their appearance with sporty face masks. Some examples of sports face masks currently available online that do not include N95 filters can be seen here:

[http://2givenow.org/educational\\_resources.htm#face\\_masks](http://2givenow.org/educational_resources.htm#face_masks) . I, personally, would love to see not only

my favorite team's logo on my face mask, but also a big smile in the design. Maybe somehow they can design a safe face mask that has a transparent strip that shows the mouth so we can show off our beautiful smiles? **All the face masks should be made by domestic garment manufacturers in a manner that is sterile and high quality (not N95).** I would also like to see more of our sports stars making public service announcements to promote wearing face masks, in addition to social distancing, washing hands, etc.

One virology expert recently stated to the [New York Times](#), ***"We have a \$3 trillion stimulus package and a mask costs very little — they should be free,"*** said [Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee](#), assistant professor of medicine at Columbia University. This will also help to balance the market for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), which was deliberately cornered by China, according to [Peter Navarro](#), as long as our face masks are made in the USA. ***Some people can and will make their own face masks, which should be encouraged, better than nothing. But you can't legally or effectively mandate face masks for all people in public places unless you directly provide them to all, door-to-door. To demonstrate a symbolic DIY face mask is one thing. To make one that is actually effective, is another. Standards for safety are not a feelings thing, especially with regards to a deadly disease that spreads like the wind. For seniors and others with vulnerable health, the standards should be elevated to the level of N95, regardless of symptoms or lifestyle.***

## Toilet Paper Sources

The toilet paper people did not create the stockpiling crisis, nor did the stores and distributors. This is an artificial demand stampede created only by policy makers, albeit with good intentions. For this reason, our government bureaucracy needs to own up to the incumbent responsibility to flatten out the critical demand curve for toilet paper by direct management, including mandating the supplies and distribution as needed.

***The lockdown of Wuhan required governmental management of food and grocery distribution involving large grocery chains and local markets integrated tightly to avoid food insecurity for the masses. Volunteers and staff safely delivered food and supplies to each apartment, all wearing protective gear.*** But, for now, in order to avoid dangerous long lines at stores, we need to directly supply each household with a monthly supply of toilet paper, and possibly other essentials.

To determine a monthly supply for each household, we may start with an average amount that the industries can document. If we need to advance a second or third month of supplies, we may get more accurate household occupancy numbers from tax returns or possibly the current census. If Uncle Sam can step up at this time of crisis, the knee-jerk panic buying behavior will be mitigated. People should not be forced to choose between having food on the table and a healthy environment. Obviously, food at risk is better than death from hunger. This is an unusual pandemic crisis that requires measures that have never been on or near the table of options to consider. Let's just be thankful that we have the resource capacity for damage-control by careful planning and decisive action.

## Distribution Resources

We would like to see our UPS and FedEx people take this on, since this involves more capacity than the USPS, in our opinion. Another option may be the National Guard or other military troops and vehicles. Everybody involved with the distribution must wear face masks and gloves. Vehicles must be sanitized.

The first delivery package to each house would include possibly a half-dozen face masks, a month's supply of toilet paper, and possibly other supplies, such as hand sanitizers and gloves. ***When an FDA approved home [COVID-19 self-test kit](#) becomes available, every household should be enfranchised in this way. Free of cost – no profiteering or hoarding.*** It may also be necessary to create a ***home supply hotline*** at the national level with local coordination for people to request more supplies and food, as needed. This will greatly mitigate the hoarding and [panic buying syndrome \(PBS\)](#), which tends to exacerbate the demoralizing fear of the disease, itself.

## My Situation

I am struggling to get food to eat without standing in lines or traversing narrow aisles in grocery stores. In the future, I believe we should redesign the floorplans for grocery stores, making sure there's ample space for social distancing within the aisles.

Hopefully, we expect you can help to move our government machinery in the right direction at your purview and at all appropriate levels.