

## Coronavirus

### **60,000 downloads of the barrier mask model**

**The barrier mask model offered by AFNOR to manufacturers and individuals has been downloaded more than 60,000 times since it was made available on March 27. This document has now been translated into English for international distribution.**

*Paris, March 31, 2020-* THE [barrier mask model](#) spreads at high speed. Made available in France on March 27 at 12:30 p.m., it has been downloaded more than 60,000 times, by various profiles: industrialists able to launch mass production, craftsmen, individuals who are fans of *Do it yourself*, or even communities for their staff.

The AFNOR Spec specifications for barrier masks were created thanks to the intense mobilization by AFNOR over 7 days of 150 experts, with a particular commitment from the Strategic Committee of the Fashion and Luxury industrial sector. **These specifications are now referenced by an interministerial note of March 29 for the manufacture of so-called category 2 masks, in order to facilitate the rapid equipping of the healthy population, thus providing additional defense against the coronavirus.** This new model of fabric mask meets a less ambitious level of performance than that of [surgical masks and FFP2](#) , intended primarily for healthcare professionals. In addition to barrier gestures, the barrier mask nevertheless provides real protection for employees, public officials and the entire healthy population who can equip themselves with them, for home-work journeys for example.

#### **An English version made available**

The document [AFNOR Spec – Barrier masks 1.0](#) has already been distributed to all French-speaking AFNOR counterparts, particularly on the African continent, thanks to the Réseau Normalization et Francophonie association. This standard is also, since March 31, [available in English, free download](#) and distributed within the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). International NGOs are also analyzing the AFNOR document with a view to incorporating it into their technical sheets, particularly as part of their actions in favor of developing countries.

## **Promote the sharing of information validated by a consensus of experts**

In the same way that the AFNOR Spec document is now a benchmark among all initiatives aimed at creating mask models, AFNOR will publish on its website recommendations for implementing the document, intended for the different categories of stakeholders concerned (industrial, artisans, laboratories, communities, users, etc.).

Each person who has downloaded AFNOR Spec 1.0 will also be informed of upcoming updates to the document published on March 27. Several suggestions for improvements to the specifications have been received by AFNOR from people who have downloaded the document. An update of the repository is already planned in order to integrate most of these improvements.

### About AFNOR

Responsible for promoting the co-construction of texts with added value and supporting innovations, AFNOR facilitates consultation between interested parties by bringing together all categories of actors concerned by an issue, with the assistance of partner standardization operators. Nearly 20,000 representatives of companies, associations, federations and the State take part in the development of voluntary standards each year, in 90% of cases at the European or international level. <https://normalisation.afnor.org>

Press contact: Olivier Gibert – + 33 01 41 62 84 17 – [presse@afnor.org](mailto:presse@afnor.org)