NEW MASK TO DEFEND AGAINST TB

Test results of a new fabric facemask developed in Australia show a 99.9% kill rate against the bacterium that causes Tuberculosis.

Adisposable fabric facemask developed to protect against pandemic Influenza hasnow also proven effective against the Tuberculosis forming mycrobacterium. The mask, produced by Melbourne company Virogard PtyLtd, is unique in that it not only filters potentially harmful particles butactively kills them whilst remaining entirely safe to humans. The mask isdesigned such that it cannot leach and contains no potentially harmful elementssuch as heavy metals, fluoro-chemicals, pesticides or nano-particles.

Developmentof the apparently simple mask began in 2007 with the identification of a uniquepolymer treatment that, when applied to fabrics, actively kills micro-organismssuch as e-Coli and pneumonia bacteria. The company then produced a simple 2-plyprotective mask with a more ergonomic fit than conventional surgical masks andbegan testing against Human Influenza Type A which encompasses all known orlikely variants of pandemic influenza. Results were considered outstanding witha kill rate exceeding 99.9%. Because the antimicrobial properties of the fabricsurvive repeated washing and even hot ironing that mask enjoyed the addedbenefit of being re-usable.

Internationaldemand for a fabric mask with the higher filtration capabilities of aparticulate respirator then triggered further development that has now resultedin the Virogard P2 mask that fully meets Australian Standard AS/NZS1716 fordisposable respirators. That Standard is roughly equivalent, and in someelements more demanding, than other international Standards such as the US N95.This new Australian mask still incorporates the Virogard active antimicrobialprotection against both TB and Influenza virus and may thus be the most advancedfabric respirator anywhere. The P2 mask is single use. As yet there are nointernational Standards that would recognize re-usability in fabric facemasks.