

SENATE
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Introduced by **SENATOR VICENTE SOTTO III**

RESOLUTION

DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EFFICACY OF WEARING FACE SHIELD TO PREVENT THE TRANSMISSION OF THE COVID-19 VIRUS, BASED ON SCIENTIFIC STUDIES DONE BY HEALTH EXPERTS, IN RELATION TO ITS ONGOING DELIBERATIONS ON THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY AND THE NATIONAL COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF EVALUATING EXISTING HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

1 **WHEREAS**, during the Committee of the Whole hearing on June 15,
2 2021, Senate President Vicente C. Sotto III asked the Department of Health
3 about the IATF's basis for imposing the use of face shield to the general
4 public and he further requested for the submission of list of countries that
5 are mandating its use;

6 **WHEREAS**, on June 21, 2021, the Department of Health submitted
7 documents pertaining to studies particularly from *The Lancet* and India,
8 which supposed to show the efficacy of using face shields in preventing
9 transmission of the Covid-19 virus. However, none of which proved to be
10 conclusive;

11 **WHEREAS**, the Department of Health also submitted a list of
12 countries that use face shield or visor. The list includes China, South Korea,
13 Malta, United Kingdom, and Oregon, a particular state in the United States

1 of America. Be it noted, however, that the public's use of face shield or visor
2 in these countries are not mandatory;

3 **WHEREAS**, according to the Centers for Disease Control and
4 Prevention (CDC), face shields are not as effective at protecting you or the
5 people around you from respiratory droplets. Face shield are only an
6 alternative for people who are not advisable to wear mask;¹

7 **WHEREAS**, according a study in the American Journal of Infection
8 Control (AJIC), surgical masks alone provided good protection, surpassing
9 the protection provided by face shields alone. If mask and face shield are
10 used together, the combined protection was similar to surgical masks use
11 alone. Mask and/or shield together showed no significant improvement
12 compared to masks alone. When face shields were used in combination with
13 masks, no significant improvement was observed as compared to masks
14 alone;²

15 **WHEREAS**, the DELTA variant of Covid-19, first identified in India,
16 has been detected in 74 countries and has caused outbreaks in China,
17 United States of America, Africa, Scandinavia and United Kingdom³. To
18 date, none of these countries has imposed the mandatory use of face shield
19 by the general public despite the continuous rise in cases involving said
20 variant of concern;

21 **WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization (WHO) only advice the
22 public to use mask as part of a comprehensive strategy of measures to
23 suppress transmission and save lives. In WHO's website, the basic health
24 protocols recommended is to stay safe by taking some simple precautions,
25 such as physical distancing, wearing a mask, keeping rooms well ventilated,

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>

² [https://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553\(21\)00021-3/fulltext](https://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553(21)00021-3/fulltext)

³ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/jun/14/delta-variant-of-covid-spreading-rapidly-and-detected-in-74-countries>

1 avoiding crowds, cleaning your hands, and coughing into a bent elbow or
2 tissue;⁴

3 **WHEREAS**, wearing face shield is not among the recommended
4 protocol from world health experts to prevent the transmission of COVID-19
5 virus;

6 **WHEREAS**, for the marginalize and poor, face shield is very costly for
7 something that do not afford protection against the virus. Our people should
8 rather invest in a proper mask that is scientifically proven to protect them
9 from the virus;

10 **RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines,
11 to direct the Senate Committee of the Whole, to conduct an inquiry, in aid of
12 legislation, on the efficacy of wearing face shield to prevent the transmission
13 of the COVID-19 virus, based on scientific studies done by health experts, in
14 relation to its ongoing deliberations on the COVID-19 pandemic situation in
15 the country and the National COVID-19 Vaccination Program, with the end
16 in view of evaluating existing health and safety protocols.

Adopted,


VICENTE C. SOTTO III

⁴ <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks>