

BSI Flex 5555

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Community face coverings — Specification



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Foreword

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Acknowledgement is given to the following organizations and their representatives as well as individuals who contributed as members of the Advisory Group:

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This BSI Flex was adapted from the CEN Workshop Agreement, *Community face coverings — Guide to minimum requirements, methods of testing and use*. The CEN Workshop Agreement is now being further developed as the basis for a CEN Technical Specification, and it is envisaged that this BSI Flex will be withdrawn once the CEN Technical Specification is published.

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Introduction

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, people were asked to wear simple face coverings to reduce the projection of exhaled air and hence reduce the spread of infection. Drawing on hospital experiences and data, community face coverings are being re-defined to include performance requirements.

The World Health Organization (WHO) have provided guidance on the factors which are to be considered for face coverings, as well as examples of where the general public are encouraged to use medical and non-medical masks (i.e. face coverings) in areas with known or suspected community transmission [1].

Community face coverings are intended for use by people not displaying any clinical symptoms of viral or bacterial infection and who do not come into contact with people displaying such symptoms.

Community face coverings are not suitable for children under 3 years of age. It is recommended that children between 3 and 11 years are supervised while wearing the community face covering.

NOTE The minimum age criteria can be higher in function of the national recommendations.

Community face coverings minimize the projection of the wearer's respiratory droplets, saliva, sputum or respiratory secretions when talking, coughing or sneezing. Community face coverings are designed to offer a level of protection for those around the wearer, but they can also limit penetration by respiratory droplets from another person into the wearer's nose and mouth. A face covering can also minimize the amount wearers touch their nose and mouth. See Figure 1.

Figure 1 – Limitation of the projection of respiratory droplets to the environment

