

New mask offers added protection

AS a strategy to prevent the spread of A (H1N1) influenza, people around the world have been asked to don face masks. Do face masks really work? And how do we know which type to get? Are the industrial types (known as N95) more effective in fighting off germs since they are more heavy-duty?

Last week, a new mask was launched in the presence of Health Ministry officials. Called BioMask, it could be the answer to those who are not comfortable with the masks currently available in the market.

The BioMask, says Pharmaniaga, the local distributor, offers advanced protection through a three-way bio-

chemical action (see diagram): First, it has enhanced viral filtration that traps and kills 99.9% of harmful germs.

Second, it provides rapid viral inactivation that kills virus in less than one minute, thus reducing cross-contamination.

Third, it offers enhanced comfort to the user as it has better breathability and avoids heat and moisture build-up.

According to Pharmaniaga, the BioMask detects and traps most bacteria and viruses and kills them within minutes. It particularly targets and destroys those that cause infectious respiratory diseases, such

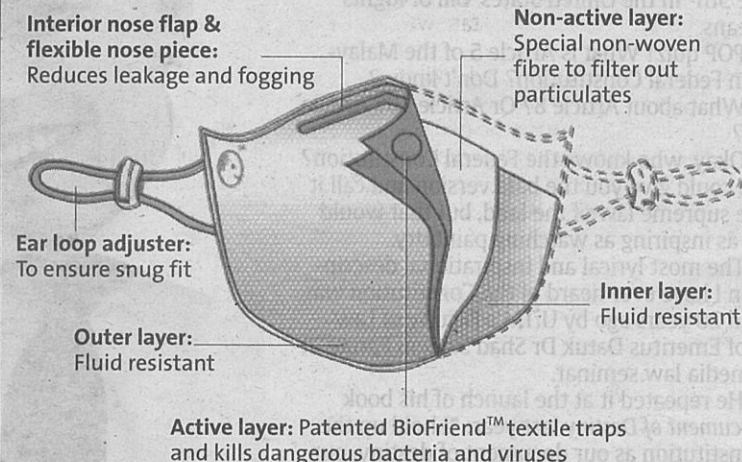
as influenza viruses.

When compared to other masks, the BioMask, developed by Filigent Ltd, a Hong Kong biotech company, is said to be more efficient and more comfortable.

However, the face mask alone cannot provide complete protection, but an approach combining several other steps such as washing the hands with soap and water and covering the mouth when sneezing, can help reduce the likelihood of transmission.

The mask is available at general and private hospitals, private clinics and leading pharmacies throughout Malaysia.

HOW THE BIOMASK WORKS



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Pharmaniaga