

Health Canada Issues an Advisory/Recall for Face Masks Containing Graphene

Health Canada published an Advisory to warn Canadians (the general public, healthcare professionals and hospitals) to NOT wear face masks that contain Graphene or Biomass Graphene until further notice. See <https://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2021/75309a-eng.php>. The warning explains the concern that wearers of these masks may inhale graphene particles from some masks that could pose health risks, including pulmonary injury. There is belief that masks may have been sold and/or distributed, to adults & children, for use in schools & daycares as well as health care facilities.

The Advisory goes on to ask that provinces & territories stop any distribution & use of these types of masks. Health Canada also instructed all distributors, manufacturers, and importers to stop selling these masks, and to recall ones that have been sold/distributed, until a full scientific assessment can be completed, that establishes the safety and efficacy of these types of masks. This investigation is already underway, with Health Canada reaching out to manufacturers for data on their products.

Anyone that used these products and has any symptoms of difficulty breathing, discomfort while breathing, or shortness of breath should contact their healthcare provider. Adverse events or complaints should be reported to Health Canada for follow-up; see the Advisory for contact information.

For those of you, like me, not familiar with Graphene nanoparticle technology, before you go any further, consider listening to a quick explanation of Graphene 101, produced by Andrew Maynard, a Professor of the Future of Innovation in Society, at Arizona State University @ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Puec2aLy10>. Check his Bio to answer any concerns that he has the expertise to speak & write on the subject @ <https://isearch.asu.edu/profile/2670673>.

Most of the information on graphene products looks at the promising properties of graphene, including bacterial, and possibly viral, blocking, inhibition, or killing. Less of it contemplates its effects on the human body. There are many variables that are likely to determine its safety, particularly when it may be entering the body. It is likely that each manufacturer's masks will have to be evaluated for both effectiveness & safety, and safety shouldn't be ignored for efficacy.

There was no response to the Health Canada Advisory/Recall from any US agency that I could find. I also didn't receive a response from the FDA, when I called asking for comment on the safety of the masks with graphene that are available in the US. In lieu of either agreement or disagreement with Canada's approach to graphene-containing masks, I personally (not speaking for FirstWatch), will NOT be utilizing any masks with

this technology until more definitive guidance is released, whether the guidance comes from Canada or the US. In lieu of guidance, those outside of Canada must decide for themselves.

A list of resources & links, to more detailed information, will be provided as a sub-document with this article posted on the Health Intelligence Page (HIP). There will be updates on this topic as available and needed.