* 1. There are insufficient supplies worldwide of adequate masks for workers at the front line - a government planning issue that seems apparently unsolvable thus far
* 2. There is a long HO evidence based advice that inferior masks and home made ones give little protection to the wearer and a history of opinion that they might make things worse if worn too long/ get damp etc
* 3 however there appears to be agreement that they perhaps limit spread from an infected individual
* 4. the relevant issue now seems to be that perhaps universal wearing of masks might decrease the rate of transmission from asymptomatic or mildly symptomatic individuals (as prevalence climbs).
* 5. So unanswered questions might be: would wearing masks encourage others to do so; can you apply hospital studies to community settings; might a mask discourage you from thoughtlessly touching your face; might it remind others to social distance (especially the panting joggers who pass close by me when walking); does the insertion of a filter make a difference?  Or might it make people more lax with other strategies
* If the main issue that degrades surgical masks is moisture, if we wear a cloth mask underneath a surgical mask, will that prolong the functional life of the surgical mask?
  + i.e. use the cloth mask to trap a proportion of exhaled moisture – say, 75%???
  + By only transmitting 25% of the usual exhaled moisture to the surgical mask, this would then prolong the life of a surgical mask by, say x4 – so instead of one hour, we get four hours per mask???
  + Thus extending the life of our stockpiles x4???
  + As well as (at least partially) protecting the outer surface of our cloth masks?