



Face shield use science-based, says Palace

**By Willie Casas and
Macon Ramos-Araneta**

THE government needs to listen to and believe in the experts' findings that the use of face shields is effective in preventing the further transmission of COVID-19, Malacañang said Thursday.

"We have to believe in what science is saying," presidential spokesman Harry Roque said in an online press conference.

Roque issued the statement, after the

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Senate sought an inquiry into the effectiveness of face shields in protecting people against COVID-19.

He maintained that Duterte's latest directive to keep the wearing of face masks mandatory is based on science.

"That's what the science and experts have said. It is difficult to ignore the findings of the experts in the fields of medicine and epidemiology," he said in Filipino.

Senate Resolution 757, authored by Senate President Vicente Sotto III, directs the Senate Committee of the Whole to investigate, in aid of legislation, the efficacy of wearing face shields in public spaces.

The resolution was filed following dismay over the government's flip-flopping on the policy on the use of face shields.

Duterte initially decided to relax the government's face shield requirement by mandating its use only in hospitals.

Roque, however, announced on Monday that Duterte has decided to keep the

original policy on the mandatory use of face shields in public places in view of more transmissible Delta coronavirus variant.

While he acknowledged the inconvenience of wearing face shields, Roque insisted that there is a scientific basis to mandate its use.

Roque also cited the findings of The Lancet that the use of face masks helps control the COVID-19 transmission.

The Lancet's study, Roque said, found that wearing a face mask can decrease the risk of catching COVID-19 by 78 percent.

The risk can also decrease by 85 percent, if face shield is worn in addition to face shield, Roque added.

Roque also cited a local study that showed that a person is protected against COVID-19 by 97 percent, if they use face shield and face mask and observe social distancing.

The OCTA Research Group on Thursday supported the President's decision to continue requiring the wearing of face shields indoors and outdoors. *(See full story online at manilastandard.net)*