

Diving masks turned into specialized face masks



Teachers from **Tec de Monterrey**, working alongside the Salvador Zubirán National Institute of Medical Sciences and Nutrition (*Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutrición Salvador Zubirán*, INCMNSZ), have developed an adapter so that **diving masks** can be used by health workers to avoid contagion by **COVID-19**.

Rita Q. Fuentes, Manuel Hernández, and Mariel Alfaro are teachers from the [School of Engineering and Sciences](#) in the **Tec's Mexico City Region** who have joined forces with Fanny Alvarado and Jesús Mejía from the **INCMNSZ**, as well as independent researcher Rubén Fuentes.

*“There’s a shortage of **N95 face masks**, which is a serious problem because it’s the only type of face mask that can protect health workers. In Europe, they’ve developed a way of adapting diving masks and using them.*

*“These masks cover your face completely. We’ve **created an adapter** that allows you to add a **filter** to provide **protection** against pathogens entering and leaving,”* said Mariel Alfaro.



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Alfaro Ponce, Director of the bachelor's degree course in **Biomedical Engineering** at the Tec in Mexico City, explained the **benefits** of diving **masks** with the relevant modifications for use in the health sector.

*"The advantage of this type of face mask is that it's **fully sealed** and it's safer. There was a great deal of interest from the National Institute of Medical Sciences and Nutrition, whom we've been working with, so we did some tests.*

*“All the material can be sterilized, which is another advantage, and all the **material** can be **obtained in Mexico**,”* she added.

The teachers have promised to deliver **500 adapters** in the days to come. This will benefit the hospital, which is being used to treat COVID-19 patients in Mexico City.

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