


Don't get your mask all out of joint

The reintroduction into daily life of face masks and respirators after a summertime lull presents interesting language possibilities. Czechs already talk about *odrouškování* (unmasking) and *rouškovné* (seniors' bonus). English speakers might start referring to those who suck up to government policymakers or the boss as brown maskers, since all the noses are concealed under a layer of fabric. Others will complain about being led around by their mask and about paying through the respirator for overpriced medical products. Schoolchildren will win playground races by a mask or rub another child's mask in the dirt when something embarrassing happens. Some people are seeing new life respired into their business, while others will complain that the boss is respiring down their necks more than ever. Many readers will thumb their respirator at such language suggestions and ask us to stop poking our mask into their business. Do with this as you will, it's no skin off our mask. One thing is certain, we'll all respire more easily once we can do it again without a government-mandated intermediary.

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