



APPLICATIONS – COVID-19 emergency

THE "ANTI_COVID-LAB" IS BORN IN CATANIA FOR TESTS ON FABRICS FOR ANTI COVID-19 MASKS

The University of Catania and the INFN Southern National Laboratories have given rise to the "ANTI_COVID-LAB", a laboratory for the verification of the functional qualities of the fabrics used in masks for the prevention of contagion in the emergency COVID-19. The goal is to provide technical-scientific assistance to companies that may request to test fabrics used to make masks and other medical devices, according to the standards required by the current regulations. The laboratory has been created thanks to a task force made up of personnel with a deep technical and scientific knowledge in microbiology, engineering, physics or chemistry, who prepared and equipped the "ANTI_COVID-LAB" in a very short time, inside the BRIT (Bio-nanotech Research and Innovation Tower) service center in Catania, to deal with the emergency COVID19 -LAB.

The test system used at the ANTI_COVID-LAB allows researchers to perform aerosol sampling, in detail microbiological sampling of bacteria and fungi through the use of an inertial impactor that simulates the aspiration of air performed by human lungs during the normal breathing process. The characterization system has been created and will be kept in operation and continuously improved thanks to a multidisciplinary collaboration (engineering, chemistry, physics, microbiology) between the University of Catania and the INFN Southern National Laboratories. ■