

## Press Release

DEKRA experts warn against hanging face masks in your field of vision

### **Rear-View Mirror is Not a Clothes Hook**

- Even small mirror pendants are dangerous
- Movements at the edge of your field of vision are harder to notice
- Keep mouth and nose coverings in one of the storage compartments

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**Extraordinary situations demand extraordinary measures. For example, coronavirus masks are currently in everyone's faces. In many countries, citizens are required to wear them. Drivers are no exception: If you stop to buy a sandwich or even just gas, you often need. Many drivers are therefore keeping at least one mask in their car. However, DEKRA experts are warning them not to hang their mask on the rear-view mirror.**

"Even comparatively small mirror pendants such as lanyards, air fresheners and the like are dangerous, in our view," says Peter Rucker, Head of DEKRA Accident Research. "So it's all the more true for relatively large face masks."

The problem is not only that the driver's field of vision is restricted – especially when turning – but also that pendants on the inside mirror are a distraction. "Because there is always an object dangling there, drivers become accustomed to constant movements at the edge of their field of vision. The result is that they notice movements outside the vehicle, such as cyclists or pedestrians on the right-hand side of the road, much later," says the expert. This can cause serious accidents that could have been avoided.

"The masks are there to protect people. If you carelessly hang one on your rear-view mirror, you're doing the opposite: endangering other road users," says Rucker.

He makes a clear recommendation: "Keep your coronavirus mask in one of the storage compartments. Most vehicle models offer plenty of them. But the rear-view mirror is not a suitable clothes hook."

#### **About DEKRA**

*DEKRA has been active in the field of safety for more than 90 years. Founded in 1925 in Berlin as Deutscher Kraftfahrzeug-Überwachungs-Verein e.V., it is today one of the world's leading expert organizations. DEKRA SE is a subsidiary of DEKRA e.V. and manages the Group's operating business. In 2019, DEKRA generated sales totaling*

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*3.4 billion euros. The company currently employs almost 44,000 people in approximately 60 countries on all six continents. With qualified and independent expert services, they work for safety on the road, at work and at home. These services range from vehicle inspection and expert appraisals to claims services, industrial and building inspections, safety consultancy, testing and certification of products and systems, as well as training courses and temp work. The vision for the company's 100th birthday in 2025 is that DEKRA will be the global partner for a safe world.*