

# Public awareness hazy

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## Checks reveal many still unaware of dangers of not wearing masks

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ALTHOUGH face masks are becoming increasingly popular among the public, the general reaction towards the worrying haze levels in the Klang Valley can only be described as gradual.

This was despite Air Pollutant Index (API) levels reaching as high as 746 in Muar on Sunday, resulting in a state of emergency being declared by the government there as well as in Ledang, Johor.

Checks by *The Malay Mail* in the Klang Valley yesterday revealed that some members of the public had only started to purchase masks for themselves, with others braving the hazy conditions without protection at all.

Legal editor Melissa John, 30, said she had just started wearing her mask yesterday.

"I bought it mainly as a precaution. I haven't experienced any health problems yet," said the



**STAYING SAFE:** Face masks are becoming increasingly popular among the public with the rising haze levels — FILEpic

Setapak resident.

"I did so after reading the news that the situation is getting worse, especially in Muar and Ledang, and that over 700 schools have been closed down."

Burger vendor assistant Ema Masnur, 25, from Lembah Subang, said she usually stays at home and

is as not up-to-date on the issue.

"I have heard the news about API levels reaching over 700 and about schools closing down but not that in-depth," she admitted.

"My son Ahmad, 4, doesn't wear a mask outdoors because he doesn't like it."

Leong Chang Peng, 28, a

salesman from Cheras, said he heard about the worsening haze levels mainly through social media.

"I only started wearing a mask yesterday, as I heard things were getting worse," he said.

"I work outdoors all day, so I thought I should start wearing one."