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## THE EVOLUTION OF PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Plague Doctor Costumes were commonly used by physicians treating the bubonic plague in Italy and France during the 17th century epidemics. The intention was to protect wearers from “miasma” or “bad air”, exactly the same idea for today’s doctors treating COVID-19 patients and protecting themselves from airborne particles presumably containing SARS-CoV-2. The earlier costumes included a bird-beak mask (an old version of nowadays respirator) usually filled with aromatic substances (lavender, camphor, mint, etc.), an over clothing garment which was completed by a wide-brimmed hat, gloves and boots.

Source: Wellcome Collection (<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/vexvy3g3>)

COSTUME WORN BY DOCTORS DURING AN OUTBREAK OF PLAGUE  
17th Century