

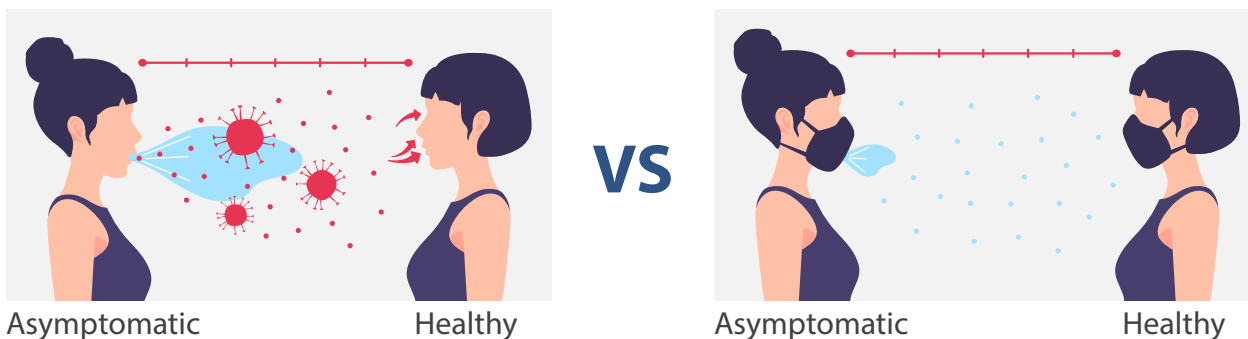
There is clear scientific evidence that wearing a face mask prevents the spread of COVID-19.



One of the simplest ways to protect lives and livelihoods during the pandemic is by wearing a face mask.^{1,2} Nearly all reputable medical and scientific organizations agree that masks are an effective way to help stop the spread of COVID-19.^{2,3,4,5,6,7}

A study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention showed not only do masks protect other people from getting infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, but that masks can also be protective for the person wearing a mask.⁸ We know that COVID-19 is most frequently spread through droplets and aerosol particles from our nose and mouth.^{9,10} Wearing a face mask significantly decreases the chance a person will spread the virus to others or be infected by the virus.¹¹

Masks reduce airborne transmission



Wearing face masks and getting vaccinated reduces the spread of COVID-19 in schools and the number of students and teachers on quarantine.

School quarantine guidance for the 2021-2022 school year allows more students to participate in in-person learning when students are vaccinated or wearing masks. Students may continue in-person learning after an exposure if:

- You are fully vaccinated.
- You and the person who tested positive were both wearing masks.
- You were wearing an N95 or KN95 mask when you were exposed, even if the person who tested positive was not wearing a mask.



1. <https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/marriner-wpmedia/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/SeegertGaulinYangNavarroSanchez2020-web.pdf>
2. <https://www.idsociety.org/covid-19-real-time-learning-network/infection-prevention/masks-and-face-coverings-for-the-public/>
3. <https://pws.byu.edu/covid-19-and-masks>
4. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31142-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31142-9/fulltext)
5. <https://msphere.asm.org/content/5/5/e00637-20/article-info>
6. [https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6928e2.htm?s](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6928e2.htm?s_cid=mm6928e2_w)

7. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2768532>
8. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/more/masking-science-sars-cov2.html>
9. <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/368/6498/1422>
10. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/science-briefs/scientific-brief-sars-cov-2.html>
11. [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)31142-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31142-9/fulltext)