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.

5. https://msphere.asm.org/content/5/5/e00637-20/article-info
6. https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6928e2.htm?s_cid=mm6928e2_w
7. https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2768532
9. https://science.sciencemag.org/content/368/6498/1422
11. https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)31142-9/fulltext