



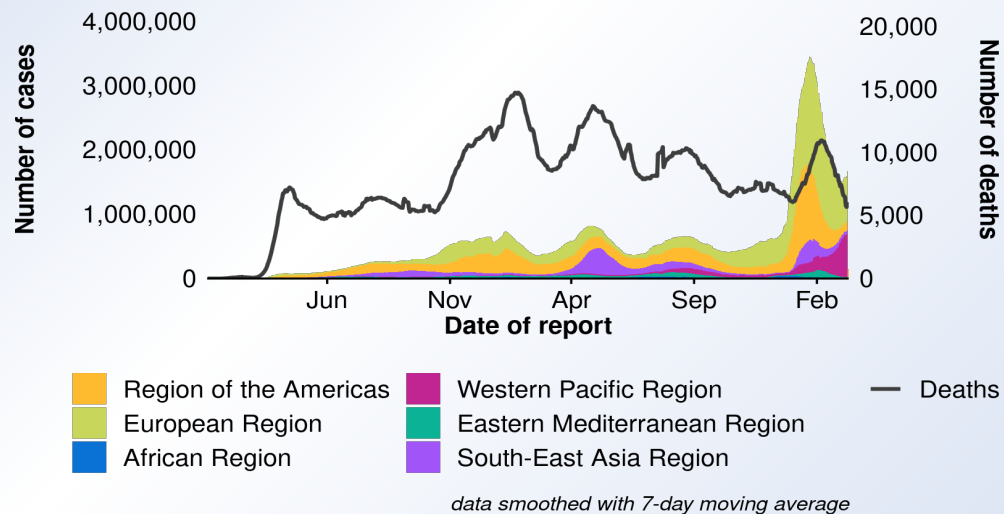
Masks in the context of COVID-19

THE LATEST ON THE GLOBAL SITUATION & UPDATED
RECOMMENDATIONS ON WEARING MASKS

Current global situation

Cases: > 472 million

Deaths: > 6 million



* Data are incomplete for the current week. Cases depicted by bars; deaths depicted by line

CHECK OUT THE LATEST GLOBAL SITUATION

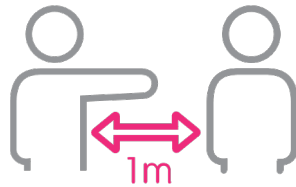
[WHO](#)
[Coronavirus](#)
[Disease \(COVID-19\)](#)
[Dashboard](#)

Preventive measures effectively reduce the transmission of COVID-19, including Omicron

Preventive measures continue to be effective and should continue to be implemented to reduce the spread of COVID-19



Wear a well-fitting mask



Keep a physical distance of at least 1 metre from others



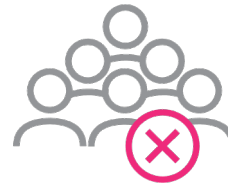
Stay at home if you feel unwell



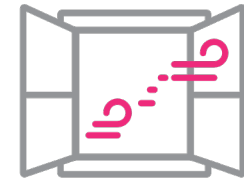
Cough or sneeze into a bent elbow or tissue



Wash hands frequently



When indoors, avoid crowded or poorly ventilated areas



Open windows to improve ventilation

Preventive measures protect those at greater risk of severe COVID-19

- Older people continue to be at greater risk for developing severe disease
- Those with underlying conditions, of any age, are also at risk for developing severe disease
- Preventive measures like wearing masks can reduce transmission of COVID-19 and protect those at greater risk

*Risk factors for severe disease: older age (>60 years), hypertension, diabetes, cardiac disease, chronic lung disease, cerebrovascular disease, dementia, mental disorders, chronic kidney disease, immunosuppression, obesity, cancer and unvaccinated against COVID-19. Risk factors in pregnant or recently pregnant women: advanced maternal age (≥ 35 years), obesity, chronic medical conditions and pregnancy-specific disorders (e.g gestational diabetes and pre-eclampsia/eclampsia)



Photo: WHO

Preventive measures help reduce transmission in settings with higher risk of COVID-19

- The following settings increase the risk of contracting COVID-19:
 - Closed spaces with poor ventilation
 - Crowded areas with many people around
 - Close contact with others, such as close-range conversations
- Preventive measures including wearing masks properly reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection in these settings where the virus spreads more easily

3 FACTORS TO HELP YOU MAKE SAFER CHOICES

WHEN YOU'RE IN AN AREA OF WIDESPREAD COVID-19 TRANSMISSION

LOCATION

Open air spaces safer than enclosed spaces

PROXIMITY

Farther away from others safer than close together

TIME

Shorter periods with others are safer

World Health Organization Western Pacific Region

Avoid the Three Cs

Be aware of different levels of risk in different settings.

There are certain places where COVID-19 spreads more easily:

- 1 Crowded places**
with many people nearby
- 2 Close-contact settings**
Especially where people have close-range conversations
- 3 Confined and enclosed spaces**
with poor ventilation

The risk is higher in places where these factors overlap.
Even as restrictions are lifted, consider where you are going and #StaySafe by avoiding the Three Cs.

LOW YOUR RISK. BE AWARE OF YOUR RISK.

World Health Organization

Masks are part of a comprehensive strategy of measures to prevent transmission

Different types of masks

- **non-medical masks**, including fabric masks and homemade multi-layered masks that meet WHO essential parameters
 - for use in non-healthcare related environments
- **medical masks**, that meet internationally recognized performance standards
 - for use in health care settings
 - for use by people over 60 and at high risk of severe complications from COVID-19
 - For use by individuals feeling unwell or infected with COVID-19 and those who care for them, at home or in the health care setting



non-medical mask



medical mask



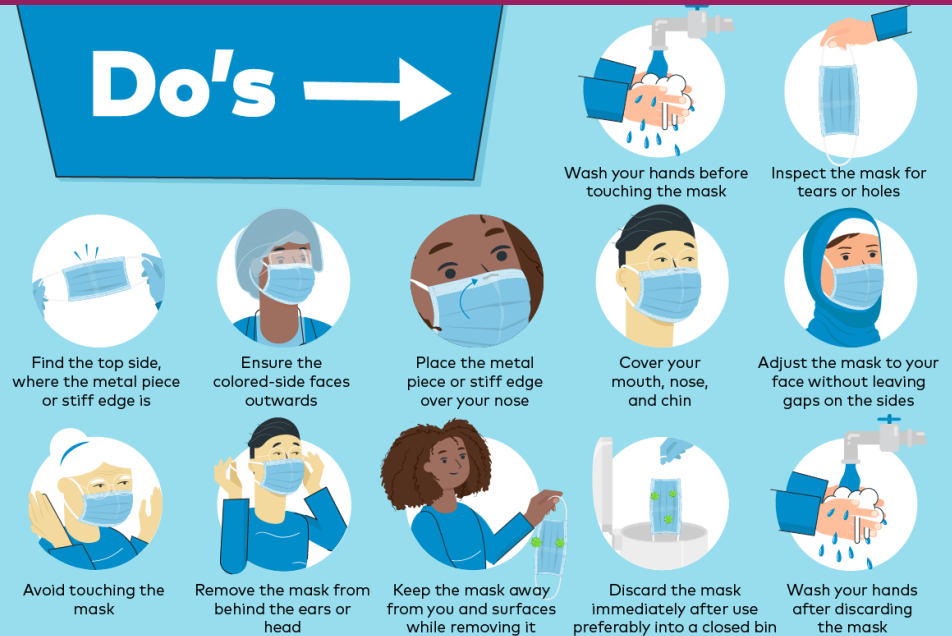
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/when-and-how-to-use-masks>

<https://app.magicapp.org/#/guideline/6147>

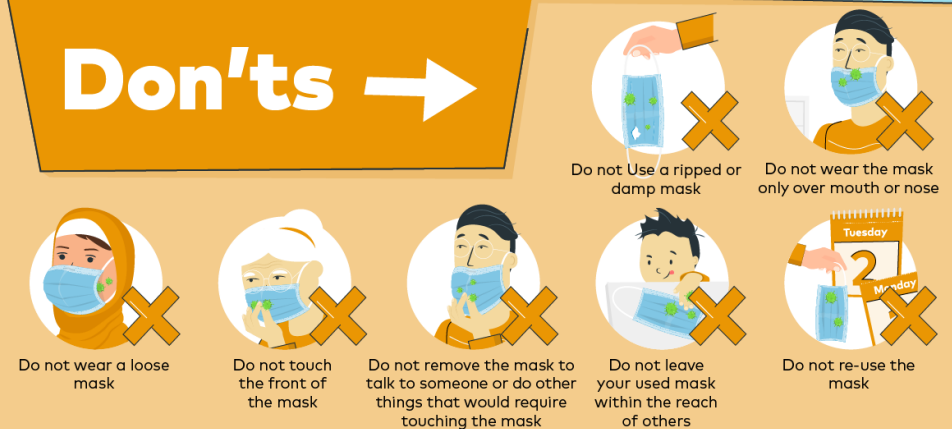
Wearing a mask safely

- The appropriate use, storage, cleaning and disposal of masks are essential to make masks as effective as possible
- Clean your hands before you put your mask on, as well as before and after you take it off, and after you touch it at any time
- Make sure it covers both your nose, mouth and chin
- When you take off a mask, store it in a clean plastic bag, and every day either wash it if it's a fabric mask, or dispose of a medical mask in a trash bin

Do's →



Don'ts →



Remember that masks alone cannot protect you from COVID-19. Maintain at least 1 metre distance from others and wash your hands frequently and thoroughly, even while wearing a mask.

When to wear a mask in indoor settings

In settings where there is community transmission of SARS-CoV-2, irrespective of vaccination status or history of prior infection, wearing a well-fitting mask that covers the nose and mouth is recommended

WHO recommends the public to wear a mask when interacting with individuals who are not members of their household:

- in indoor settings, where ventilation is known to be poor or cannot be assessed; even if physical distancing of at least 1 meter can be maintained
- in indoor settings, that have adequate ventilation if physical distancing of at least 1 meter cannot be maintained; or
- in outdoor settings, where physical distancing of at least 1 meter cannot be maintained



Photo: WHO

When to wear a medical mask in the community

Medical masks are recommended for the following groups:

- People aged 60 or over
- People of any age with underlying health conditions, including chronic respiratory disease, cardiovascular disease, cancer, obesity, immunocompromised patients and diabetes mellitus
- Anyone who is feeling unwell, including people with mild symptoms, such as muscle aches, slight cough, sore throat or fatigue
- Anyone awaiting COVID-19 test results or who has recently tested positive



Photo: wbur.org

WHO recommends a respirator or medical mask for health workers when in contact with a COVID-19 patient



WHO recommends that a respirator* or a medical mask should be worn by health workers along with other personal protective equipment (PPE) – a gown, gloves and eye protection – before entering a room with a patient with suspected or confirmed COVID-19

Note: this recommendation applies to any setting where care is provided to patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, including home care, long-term care facilities and community care settings

* FFP2, FFP3, NIOSH-approved N95, or equivalent or higher-level certified respirator

WHO recommends health workers wear a respirator when performing aerosol generating procedures



A respirator should always be worn along with other PPE by health workers who are:

- performing aerosol-generating procedures (AGPs)
- on duty in settings where AGPs are regularly performed on patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, such as intensive care units, semi-intensive care units or emergency departments

Appropriate mask fitting should always be ensured (for respirators through initial fit testing and seal check and for medical masks through methods to reduce air leakage around the mask) as should compliance with appropriate use of PPE and other precautions

Masks for children

Masks are not required for children 5 years of age or younger

Masks are recommended for children aged 6-11 years old in areas where there is known or suspected community transmission of SARS-CoV-2:

- indoor setting where ventilation is poor or cannot be assessed— even if physical distancing of at least 1 metre can be maintained
- indoor setting that has adequate ventilation; but where physical distancing of at least 1 metre cannot be maintained

Adolescents 12 years or older should follow the same WHO recommendations for mask use as adults

The use of a medical mask is recommended for children with a **higher risk of severe complication from COVID-19** but should be assessed in consultation with the child's medical provider

Children with cognitive or respiratory impairments, developmental disorders, disabilities or other **specific health conditions** who experience difficulties wearing a mask or have health conditions that interfere with mask-wearing should not be required to wear a mask



Photo: Charlein Gracia on Unsplash

Considerations when implementing mask-wearing by children in school settings

- Policies should be **evidence based, agile and adjusted as needed** taking into consideration factors such as changes in transmission intensity, the circulating variant of concern and the capacities for health systems to respond based on the situation
- **No child should be denied access to education because of mask-wearing or the lack of a mask** due to low resources or unavailability. Masks should not increase social inequalities in access to schools, especially for marginalized communities
- The full list of considerations can be found here: <https://app.magicapp.org/#/guideline/6147>

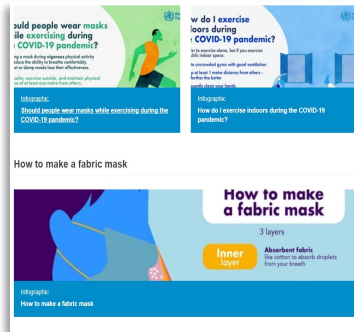


Photo: unicef

Additional resources



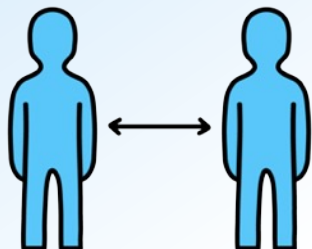
- [Infection prevention and control in the context of coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): A living guideline \(magicapp.org\)](https://magicapp.org)



- [When and how to use masks \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int)

COVID-19 protective measures

Protect yourself & others



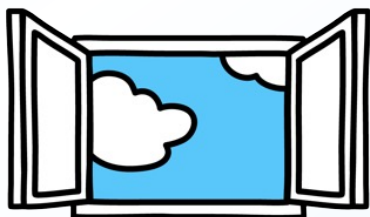
Keep your distance



Wash your hands frequently



Cough & sneeze into your elbow



Ventilate or open windows



Wear a mask



Get vaccinated when it is your turn



EPI•WIN

infodemic
MANAGEMENT