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# CDC AND WHO: "FACEMASKS NOT RECOMMENDED" (MARCH 2020, AT PANDEMY PEAK)



CDC does not currently recommend the use of facemasks to help prevent novel [#coronavirus](#). Take everyday preventive actions, like staying home when you are sick and washing hands with soap and water, to help slow the spread of respiratory illness.

[#COVID19](#) [bit.ly/37Ay6Cm](https://bit.ly/37Ay6Cm)

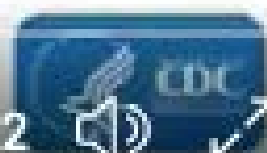
Visit [cdc.gov](https://cdc.gov)

**A:** CDC does **not currently recommend** the use of facemasks among the general public.

Some people who have an **increased risk of exposure** may need additional precautions, such as **healthcare professionals caring** for COVID-19 patients and **other close contacts**.

1.4M views

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COVID-19: Should I wear a mask?

For the general public, CDC does not currently recommend using a facemask to protect against COVID-19. Everyday preventive actions to help slow the spread of respiratory illness are recommended.



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"There is no evidence that wearing a mask by healthy people has any medical benefit. At the same time, there is a global shortage of masks. Our front line health workers need to be prioritized" stress Dr. Mike Ryan and Dr. [@mvankerkhove](#) of the [@WHO](#).

**Maria Van Kerkhove**  
Infectious Disease Epidemiologist, COVID-19 Technical Lead WHO's Health Emergencies Programme

**Michael J. Ryan**  
Executive Director of the WHO's Health Emergencies Programme

