

How does a mask protect you?

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There's evidence that just by having somebody cough or sneeze or talk loudly while they're wearing a cloth mask, you can see that most of their secretions, most of what they're putting into the air is being trapped by the mask, not completely, but to a large extent. So if they're filled with millions of virus particles, a lot of those are going to be trapped in the mask. So the best thing that a cloth mask does is prevent you if you are infectious from passing it on to people that are close to you, particularly within six feet. But also if someone coughs or sneezes through the year to you, your cloth mask will also help protect to some extent against the virus getting through your mask and into your mouth or nose.

Is there data about the effectiveness of cloth masks?

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So we're never gonna get kind of the pure evidence that some people want. But as I say there's a different type of evidence watching these secretions being blocked by the mask, that's scientific evidence in itself. And then there's also epidemiologic evidence, where countries that have used cloth masks have not gotten into the same kind of difficulty.

Does everyone need to wear a mask?

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The good thing about Ebola and smallpox is, you definitely knew who had it and you could plan accordingly. But what's happened here, which made this such a terrible infectious disease different than almost any others, is that there's so many people walking around who don't think they're sick, but they can give the infection to somebody else. And that's why we have to tell everybody you have to wear masks there's no way around this.

Should people only wear a mask if they are sick?

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If you only wear a mask when you're sick, then that's not gonna work for those individuals who are transmitting the virus, who were not sick at all, or who sometimes are just a little bit sick, but they don't realize being a little bit sick, could turn this virus to someone else who would get very sick.

How do you explain the importance of wearing masks to people?

03:06

We need to let them know what is actually going on in intensive care units. And they need to know the stories of what's happened to people. They need to know that yes, a young person can go to a bar and think like, he's not that worried because he's heard that you don't really even get that sick. So then he goes to a bar and he winds up contracting the infection. He's not that sick. But then he goes to his grandmother's birthday party, and she's gonna be one of those that winds up in the intensive care unit on a ventilator, and very possibly die. So now maybe they get it now. That okay, you weren't that sick and you weren't that scared, but you can transfer this to someone who will die from the infection. And when people understand that, I think they're going to wear a mask.

What do you say to people who feel masks are an inconvenience?

04:24

So all the things that we talked about that wearing a mask and being six feet apart and not going to the things people want to go to, that's just temporary that's not for their whole life. That's the sacrifice that they make briefly, to stay healthy.

Which age group has seen the most new cases?

04:53

The great majority of new cases are young people but the great majority of newly hospitalized people are old people, so again, it's kind of what people suspect that young healthy people are not going to get that sick. The question is, who will they give the infection to?

Are younger patients ever hospitalized with this disease?

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The disease is a disease of young people now. But patients that are hospitalized with COVID are older people. However, what is important is that of the 45 patients or so that are hospitalized. There are two or three young patients very, very ill. So it's not like that can't happen. It's not like just because you're young, you'll never get very, very sick with this disease. It's unlikely but there are young people in the hospital in both hospitals right now.