

# CDC Study Finds Overwhelming Majority Of People Getting Coronavirus Wore Masks

October 12, 2020  
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Image Credit

U.S. Army photo by Jason W. Edwards

**Over 70 percent of the case-patients who were contaminated with the virus fell ill despite “always” wearing a mask.**

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A Centers for Disease Control report released in September shows that masks and face coverings are not effective in preventing the spread of COVID-19, even for those people who consistently wear them.

A study conducted in the United States in July found that when they compared 154 “case-patients,” who tested positive for COVID-19, to a control group of 160 participants from health care facilities who were symptomatic but tested negative, over 70 percent of the case-patients were contaminated with the virus and fell ill despite “always” wearing a mask.

“In the 14 days before illness onset, 71% of case-patients and 74% of control participants reported always using cloth face coverings or other mask types when in public,” the report stated.

**TABLE. (Continued) Characteristics of symptomatic adults  $\geq 18$  years who were outpatients in 11 academic health care facilities and who received positive and negative SARS-CoV-2 test results (N = 314)\* — United States, July 1–29, 2020**

	No. (%)		
Characteristic	Case-patients (n = 154)	Control participants (n = 160)	P-value
<b>Previous close contact with a person with known COVID-19 (missing = 1)</b>			
No	89 (57.8)	136 (85.5)	<0.01
Yes	65 (42.2)	23 (14.5)	
<b>Relationship to close contact with known COVID-19 (n = 88)</b>			
Family	33 (50.8)	5 (21.7)	<0.01
Friend	9 (13.8)	4 (17.4)	
Work colleague	11 (16.9)	6 (26.1)	
Other**	6 (9.2)	8 (34.8)	
Multiple	6 (9.2)	0 (0.0)	
<b>Reported use of cloth face covering or mask 14 days before illness onset (missing = 2)</b>			
Never	6 (3.9)	5 (3.1)	0.86
Rarely	6 (3.9)	6 (3.8)	
Sometimes	11 (7.2)	7 (4.4)	
Often	22 (14.4)	23 (14.5)	
Always	108 (70.6)	118 (74.2)	

In addition, over 14 percent of the case-patients said they “often” wore a face covering and were still infected with the virus. The study also demonstrates that under 4 percent of the case-patients became sick with the virus even though they “never” wore a mask or face covering.

Despite over 70 percent of the case-patient participants’ efforts to follow CDC recommendations by committing to always wearing face coverings at “gatherings with  $\leq 10$  or  $> 10$  persons in a home; shopping; dining at a restaurant; going to an office setting, salon, gym, bar/coffee shop, or church/religious gathering; or using public transportation,” they still contracted the virus.

While the study notes that some of these people may have contracted the virus from the few moments that they removed their mask to eat or drink at “places that offer on-site eating or drinking,” the CDC concedes that there is no successful way to evaluate if that was the exact moment someone became exposed and contracted the virus.

“Characterization of community exposures can be difficult to assess when widespread transmission is occurring, especially from asymptomatic persons within inherently interconnected communities,” the report states.

In fact, the report suggests that “direction, ventilation, and intensity of airflow might affect virus transmission, even if social distancing measures and mask use are implemented according to current guidance.”

Despite this new scientific information, the CDC, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Dr. Anthony Fauci, and many political authorities are still encouraging people to wear masks. Many states and cities have even mandated masks, citing them as one of the main tools to “slow the spread” of coronavirus and keep case numbers in their area down.