Are you still on the fence about wearing a mask?

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Microbe-containing droplets are produced by coughing, talking, singing and sneezing. Masks are effective at blocking most of these droplets, even when up close.

Demonstration: To show the effect of mask use during different behaviors, a bacteria culture plate was held ~1 ½ feet in front of a person’s mouth. Droplets from the upper respiratory tract and mouth landed on the plates and after culturing for 24 hours, colonies of bacteria (not viruses*) can be seen.

*Note: It is likely that smaller aerosolized droplets (that could carry viruses like SARS-CoV-2) are also produced by coughing, sneezing etc. and that these would travel further and stay in the air longer than larger respiratory droplets.

Experiment performed by:
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Masks limit the spread of most microbe-containing droplets produced by coughing. Even without a mask, these droplets mostly traveled less than 6 feet.

Demonstration: To show the value of appropriate masking and distancing, bacteria culture plates were placed 2 feet, 4 feet and 6 feet away from a person who coughed aggressively for ~15 seconds. Droplets from the upper respiratory tract and mouth landed on the plates and after culturing for 24 hours, colonies of bacteria (not viruses*) can be seen.

*Note: It is likely that smaller aerosolized droplets (that could carry viruses like SARS-CoV-2) are also produced by coughing, sneezing etc. and that these would travel further and stay in the air longer than larger respiratory droplets.

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