

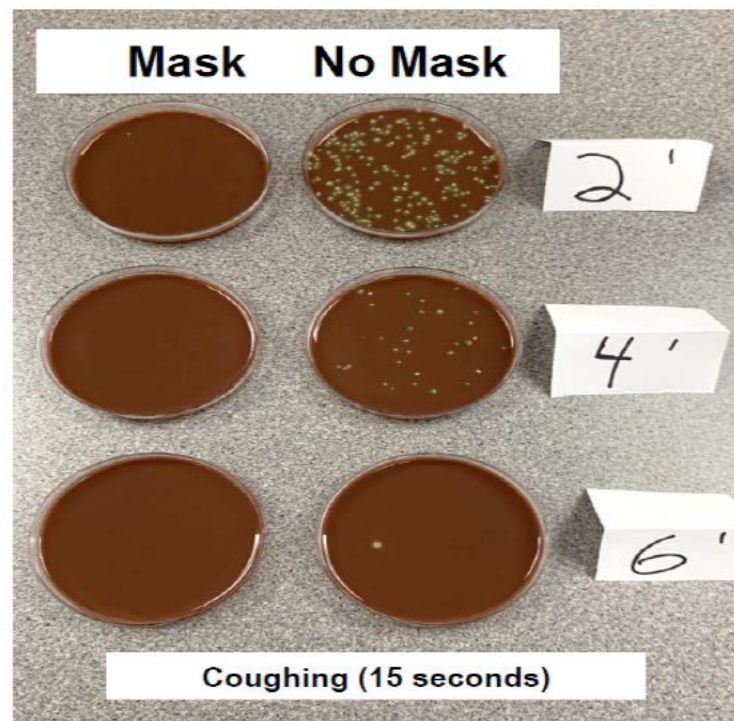


Community Education



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.

There are clear differences between masking and no masking conditions, but also fewer droplets when distance is increased, even when no mask is used. But it is likely that smaller aerosolized droplets (that could carry SARS-CoV-2) can also be produced by coughing, and that these would travel further and stay in the air longer than larger respiratory droplets.



Community Education



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.

This shows that microbe-containing droplets are produced by these behaviors and that masks are effective at blocking most of them, even when up close.

