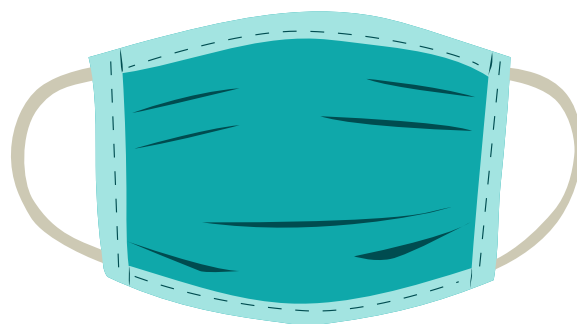


What If Some People Don't Wear A Mask?

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Why should I wear a mask?

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) says that you could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick. When you wear a mask, you do it to protect other people in case you are infected. Everyone should wear a mask in public and when around people who do not live in your house. Remember, keeping 6 feet between yourself and others is important even when wearing a mask. Wearing mask is not a substitute for social distancing.

When and where should I wear a mask?

- Public places like grocery stores, your workplace, social gatherings, or closed/indoor settings, including schools and places of worship.
- If you are living in cramped or crowded spaces and in specific settings, such as camps, shelters, or homes with more than one family living in the same house.
- When using public transportation like a bus, plane, or train.
- At work if you are in close contact or potential close contact with others.
- When you are around people who have a higher risk if they get COVID-19. This includes people over 60-years-old, people with underlying conditions (like heart disease, diabetes mellitus, chronic lung disease, cancer, or cerebrovascular disease) or who have a lower immune system.

What should I do if someone near me is not wearing a mask?

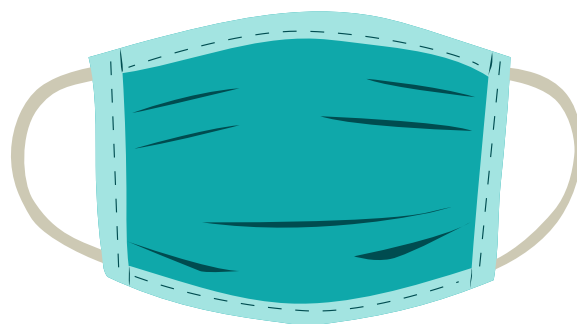
There are some people who choose not to wear a mask, or may be unable to wear a mask because of a medical condition. This can make you feel uncomfortable, scared for your well-being, and even a little bit angry.

You may want to tell the person to wear their mask. Some people may be okay with you asking them to put on a mask. Other people may become angry or aggressive. They may yell, swear or try to hit you.

It is best to not try and make someone wear a mask. If possible, you should just move away from them to a place where you feel safer.

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DO's

If you know and are comfortable with the person:

- **Do** start by acknowledging what the person does like about masks.
- **Do** use an example like: "I know the mask makes it feel like it is harder for you to breathe."
- **Do** use "I" statements about how it makes you feel. For example:
 - "I feel uncomfortable mentioning this, but I'm concerned because..."
 - "I feel protected when you wear your mask."
- If it is yourself or a family member you want to protect **Do** ask them to at least wear a mask when in contact with you or the family member. For example:
 - "Do what you want other times, but can we agree that you wear a mask when you visit me/Dad?"

If you do not know the person well or they are a stranger:

- **Do** face away or turn your back until they pass.
- **Do** talk to a manager or someone in charge and explain your discomfort. Keep in mind that not all public places are following the same guidelines.

DO NOT's

- **Do Not** use public shaming, bullying, or threatening to try to change the person's thoughts or behaviors.
- **Do Not** attempt to force anyone who appears upset or violent to follow COVID-19 prevention strategies, like wearing a mask.
- If you ask someone to please stand back or please stand away from you and they won't or it's not possible to keep 6 feet away, leave.
- **Do Not** approach someone if you are feeling angry, anxious, or fearful because the person may become defensive or angry with you.
- **Do Not** put you or your family in an upsetting or potentially dangerous situation. If you're uncomfortable with a lack of wearing a mask, or physical distance, be prepared to leave the area.