



# Preventing the Spread of COVID-19

**Good Science =  
Safe Science**  
**17 August 2020**

**While wearing a face mask/covering, you still must try to maintain 6ft of physical distancing between individuals.**

## My Mask Protects You!

By wearing a mask you are protecting others around you. In the event that you have unknowingly been exposed to SARS-CoV-2 (i.e. grocery store, gas station, etc.) you will not know that you have acquired the virus until you present symptoms for up to 2-14 days, if you are pre-symptomatic. By wearing the mask in public you prevent spreading the virus to your co-workers, peers, and strangers.

The more people that wear a mask, the lower the probability that transmission will occur. The droplets from a sneeze can spread farther than 6ft and can stay in the air for upwards of 10 minutes. Wearing your mask will contain the droplets from spreading further.

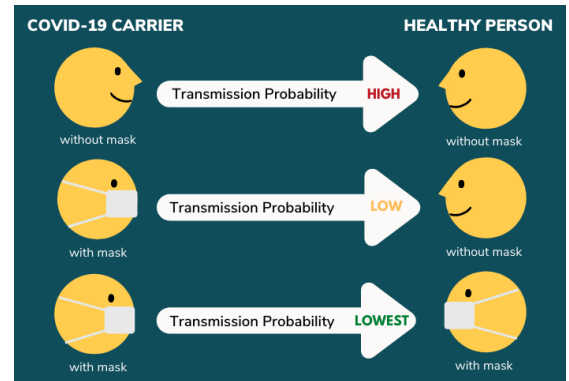


Image Source: East Alabama Medical Center



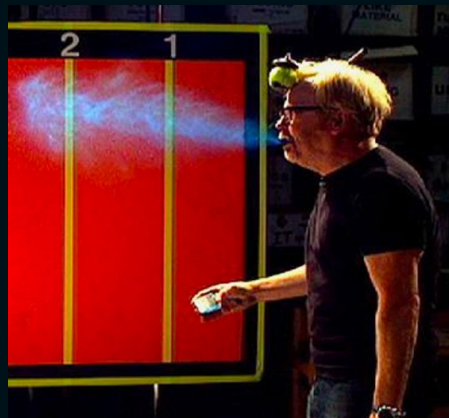
**Dr. Ian Charnas, School of Engineering at Case Western Reserve University** demonstrated an experiment on how a mask limits the spread of bacteria by breathing onto petri dishes with and without a mask. The results show that the mask does help limit the spread of bacteria and viruses. [Check out the video!](#)

## MythBusters!

Ten years ago in June 2010, the MythBusters crew demonstrated how easily the flu virus can spread. SARS-CoV-2 transmits similar to the flu virus. Jamie and Adam created a mechanical cold, using a drip syringe and fluorescent dye, to demonstrate how we can contaminate individuals and objects around us. When simulating a party atmosphere, Adam was able to “contaminate” and “possibly infect” 5 out of the 6 guests. [Click here to watch the video!](#)



For more information on COVID-19 at UofL: <https://louisville.edu/coronavirus>.



**The MythBusters also have a video on how far a sneeze can travel.**  
[Check it out here!](#)