

Face-mask use may mitigate spread of COVID-19

18 June 2020



that as many as 230,000 to 450,000 COVID-19 cases may have been averted by May 22, 2020, due to these mandates.

"As countries worldwide and states begin to relax social distancing restrictions and considering the high likelihood of a second COVID-19 wave in the fall/winter, requiring use of face masks in public might help in reducing COVID-19 spread," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

Copyright © 2020 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

(HealthDay)—Requiring face-mask use in public may help to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, according to a report published online June 16 in *Health Affairs*.

Wei Lyu, and George L. Wehby, Ph.D., from the University of Iowa in Iowa City, examined changes in the daily county-level COVID-19 growth rates between March 31 and May 22, 2020. The effect of state government mandates in the United States for face-mask use in public, issued by 15 states and Washington, D.C., between April 8 and May 15, was examined.

The researchers observed a decrease in the daily COVID-19 growth rate by 0.9, 1.1, 1.4, 1.7, and 2.0 percentage points in one to five, six to 10, 11 to 15, 16 to 20, and 21+ days, respectively, after mandating face-mask use in public; all these declines were statistically significant. In comparing the actual cumulative daily cases with daily cases predicted by the model in the absence of a state public face-mask use mandate, estimates suggest

APA citation: Face-mask use may mitigate spread of COVID-19 (2020, June 18) retrieved 27 April 2021 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-06-face-mask-mitigate-covid-.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.