

Should Masks Be Worn All the Time?

Stanley D. Williams, PhD
August 22, 2021 Email

After reading an article by Tina Hesman Saey about why masks should be worn all the time, I had this reaction:

Salience is a powerful aspect of human communication. Discussing (increasing salience) how masks can reduce the transmission of infected aerosols is only one of several arguments related to the human condition.

When the counter and contrary arguments are avoided (reducing salience) such evidence and arguments are subliminally relegated by the recipient of the communication as invalid, non-existence, and not relevant.

This article subliminally suggests that masks should be worn all the time to stop the spread infectious disease. While the article is explicitly about covid-19 aerosols, it implies that masks can be used to stop all airborne infectious diseases and therefore should become part of the human experience like clothing. (Should we expect another such article on the importance of wearing rubber gloves?)

What the article avoids (even a hint at) is that wearing masks is detrimental to human nature ... except in

temporary situations like wearing a hat and gloves when outdoors in the cold of winter.

Consider:

- a. Masks prevent full face communication for which a myriad of message attributes are necessary for healthy interpersonal relations.
- b. Masks significantly reduce the body's easy access to oxygen and other good molecules in the air
- c. Masks prevent the expulsion of toxins from the body through exhalation and can entrap those toxins in the masks where they can grow and become a source of future infection
- d. Mask wearing all the time will cause an upswing in skin abrasions, infections and even skin cancers.
- e. Masks inhibit natural human immunity by reducing the sharing of aerosols and other airborne particles between humans that contain bacteria and viruses, which are required by the body for a strong natural immunity system. Thus, ironically, masks as a panacea will make humans more vulnerable to pandemics.