



Masks significantly reduce infection risk of COVID-19

Requiring the wearing of masks to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus in areas at the epicentre of the global pandemic may have prevented tens of thousands of infections, a new study suggests. Mask-wearing is even more important for preventing the virus' spread and the sometimes deadly Covid-19 illness it causes than social distancing and stay-at-home orders, researchers said, in the study published in PNAS: The Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA.

Infection trends shifted dramatically when mask-wearing rules were implemented on April 06 in northern Italy and April 17 in New York City - at the time among the hardest hit areas of the world by the health crisis - the study found. Direct contact precautions - social distancing, quarantine and isolation, and hand sanitising - were all in place before mask-wearing rules went into effect in Italy and New York City. But they only help minimize virus transmission by direct contact, while face covering helps prevent airborne transmission, the researchers say.

"The unique function of face covering to block atomization and inhalation of virus-bearing aerosols accounts for the significantly reduced infections," they said. That would indicate "that airborne transmission of COVID-19 represents the dominant route for infection."

<https://thefinancialexpress.com.bd/health/masks-significantly-reduce-infection-risk-likely-preventing-thousands-of-covid-19-cases-study-1592023383>