

MASKS PROTECT!

20

How far virus-containing aerosol droplets from a person without a mask **1** spread in an indoor area depends on the size of the particles. Small droplets can still be detected several meters away. A surgical mask **2** filters a large proportion of the droplets from the exhaled air; however, numerous particles still flow into the environment, especially at the cheeks. With an FFP2 mask **3**, some particles escape, especially where the mask sits across the nose, but this can be minimized with adaptation of the nose clip to the wearer's face.

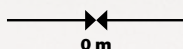
~ 3 m
90°

GRAPHIC: GCO

RISK OF INFECTION



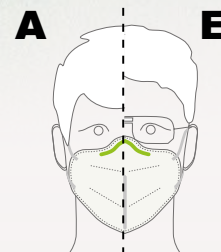
20 min



0 m

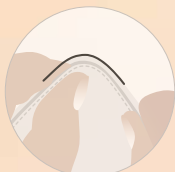
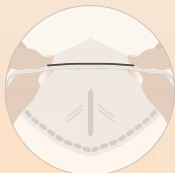
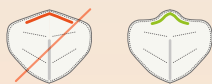
Well protected on all accounts: masks significantly reduce the risk of infection. The extent to which this is the case depends on which mouth/nose covering is worn by the infectious person (A, left) and the susceptible person (E, right), and whether the masks fit well (green

nose clip) or poorly (red nose clip). The percentages reflect the probability of infection after 20 minutes when the persons are standing directly next to each other. Most importantly, the infected person should wear an FFP2 mask, which should fit as well as possible.



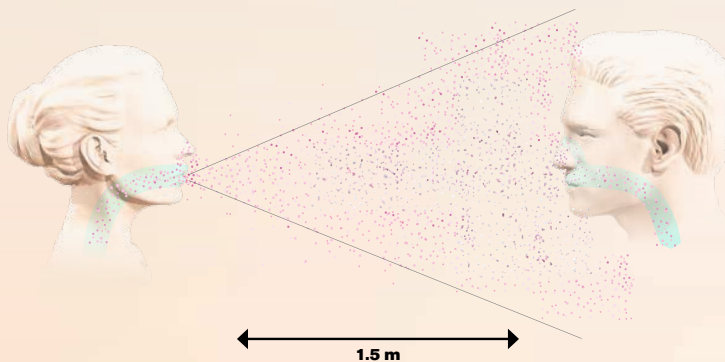
< 0.1 %

A PROPERLY FITTING MASK



To ensure that an FFP2 mask fits snugly on the nose, the nose clip should be bent in the middle, for example over a finger, and then made into a W-shape.

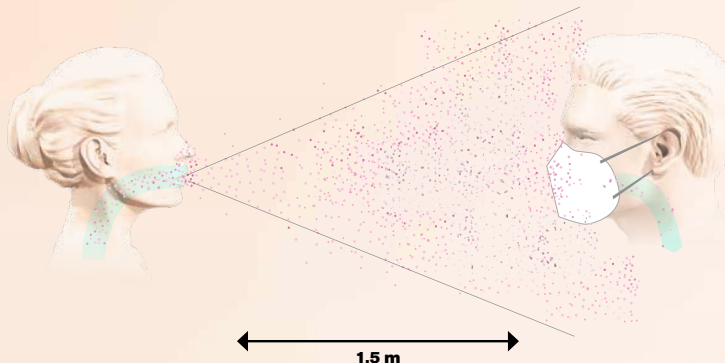
RISK WITHOUT A MASK



Very contagious: in the case of the omicron variants of the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, the maximum risk of infection is more than 99 percent after just three minutes if an uninfected person is standing 1.5 meters away in the breathing cone of a virus carrier.

> 99 %
3 min

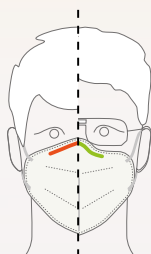
RISK WITH A MASK



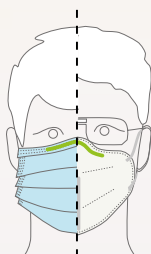
Better than nothing: if the infected person is not wearing a mask, the risk of infection for an uninfected person wearing a well-fitting FFP2 mask at 1.5 meters is about 20 percent after 20 minutes and about 50 percent after 60 minutes.

~ 20 %
20 min

~ 50 %
60 min



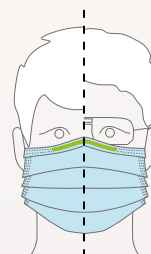
0.5 %



0.8 %



2.8 %



7.6 %