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Onderwerp: ECDC broadens face mask recommendations

ECDC broadens face mask recommendations

-- By 5.1.2e 4/8/20, 1:36 PM CET | View in your browser

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control published <u>new recommendations</u> today signaling support for more widespread use of face masks.

Masks for medical workers should continue to be prioritized, the EU agency said. But it noted that the use of face covering for the public should be considered in crowded and closed spaces such as stores, shopping centers and public transport.

The announcement marks a shift from the agency's <u>previous position</u> recommending masks in community settings only for those displaying symptoms.

Despite the softer stance, which the ECDC had already <u>previewed</u> in a draft version of the report, the agency noted that it's still not known how much face masks contribute to reduced virus transmission within communities, due to the lack of scientific evidence.

In general, people should wear masks in conjunction with following established recommendations such as social distancing, hand washing and avoiding touching the face, nose, eyes and mouth, the ECDC added.

The announcement follows a similar shift by the World Health Organization, which also <u>recently indicated</u> a wider acceptance of masks for prevention.

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