November 23, 2021

Vaccination is the best protection against COVID-19 and wearing a mask is a simple action that also reduces the spread of COVID-19. Michigan is currently experiencing high community transmission and hospitalizations from the Delta variant, so all Michiganders, **regardless of vaccination status**, should wear a mask indoors in public spaces. If you are fully vaccinated, you should still wear a mask, to maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent the possibility of spreading it to others.

You protect your friends and neighbors when you get vaccinated and wear a mask – not just yourself. The whole community is impacted by our decisions about getting vaccinated and wearing a mask. Masks work best when everyone wears them.

Some people, like those who are immunocompromised, may not be fully protected against COVID-19, even if they are vaccinated. A mild illness for one person can be fatal for another. Wearing a mask can protect people who are immunocompromised or unable to be vaccinated.

You might spread COVID-19 even if you don't feel ill. While you may feel healthy, 40% of people infected with COVID19 show no symptoms. Also, people who develop COVID-19 symptoms can spread the virus days before they feel sick. The easiest way to ensure you aren't spreading COVID-19 to others is by wearing a mask.

Wearing a mask can prevent you from experiencing a breakthrough infection. COVID-19 vaccines are effective at preventing the vast majority of infections, but some amount of breakthrough infections are expected with any vaccine. Less than 1% of all COVID-19 infections are breakthrough infections.

The Delta variant is more contagious than previous variants of the virus that causes COVID-19. The vaccines used in the United States work well against the Delta variant, particularly in preventing severe disease and hospitalization, but they aren't 100% effective.

Overall, if there are more COVID-19 infections there will be more breakthrough infections. Wearing a mask can limit the spread of the virus in both vaccinated and unvaccinated people.

The science is in; wearing a mask reduces the spread of COVID-19. Masks block 50-70% of respiratory droplets from escaping and some studies have even shown more than 80% of droplets blocked. Studies demonstrate that cloth mask materials can also reduce wearers' exposure to infectious droplets through filtration. Real world examples have demonstrated the effectiveness of wearing a mask.