

U.S. to encourage use of face masks

5th April, 2020



The USA could soon be encouraging Americans to wear face masks or scarves. There has been a lot of talk about whether or not face masks are effective in helping slow down the spread

of the COVID-19 coronavirus. The government is set to encourage Americans to use homemade face coverings like cloth masks, bandanas and scarves. The WHO and other health organisations have recommended that people who are not sick do not need to wear masks or cover their face. However, other organisations say face masks can slow the spread of the virus. They point to countries like Singapore and South Korea, where people wear masks and reported infection rates are lower.

Health experts in the USA believe that wearing a mask could reduce the risk of people spreading the virus and give a little protection to those who have not contracted it. Health officials are worried that if everyone rushes out to buy masks, there may not be enough for nurses, doctors and other key workers. They also say that a mask could make the problem worse because people might feel safe wearing one and mix more with other people. Another thing health experts are worried about is that homemade masks are insufficient to prevent people from catching the virus. The White House said: "The most important thing is the social distancing, washing your hands and not touching your face."

Sources: aljazeera.com / msn.com / huffpost.com

Writing

We should give all face masks to doctors and nurses. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

face mask / scarves / effective / government / health / face / spread / virus / infection experts / risk / protection / health officials / nurses / doctors / washing hands / mix

True / False

- a) The USA will force people to wear masks. T / F
- b) The USA is asking people to make their own masks. T / F
- c) The WHO said people who are not sick do not need to wear masks. T / F
- d) Some organisations say masks can help to slow the spread of the virus. T / F
- e) Health officials believe there are enough masks for nurses. T / F
- f) Officials said wearing a mask does not make people feel safer. T / F
- g) Officials say homemade masks are great at stopping the virus. T / F
- h) The White House said social distancing was very important. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| 1. encouraging | a. ill |
| 2. effective | b. specialists |
| 3. sick | c. virus |
| 4. slow | d. vital |
| 5. infection | e. successful |
| 6. experts | f. sufficient |
| 7. reduce | g. urging |
| 8. enough | h. stop |
| 9. prevent | i. hold back |
| 10. important | j. cut |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Should we give all masks to hospitals?
- c) When someone wears a mask, do you stay away from them?
- d) What would you use in a homemade mask?
- e) What has your country's leader said about masks?
- f) Should you be washing your hands more often?
- g) How important is keeping your distance from people?
- h) What questions would you like to ask coronavirus experts?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. There has been a | a. of the virus |
| 2. cloth | b. experts in the USA |
| 3. people who | c. masks |
| 4. slow the spread | d. your face |
| 5. reported infection | e. lot of talk |
| 6. health | f. out to buy masks |
| 7. reduce the risk of people | g. distancing |
| 8. everyone rushes | h. rates are lower |
| 9. social | i. are not sick |
| 10. not touching | j. spreading the virus |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of face masks?
- Why can't scientists agree on the effectiveness of face masks?
- Would you feel safer wearing a face mask?
- Would a scarf or bandana help during this crisis?
- Should governments spend more money on face masks?
- Why do so many people in Asian countries like Japan wear masks?
- Should governments order everyone to wear a mask?
- What are you doing to stay safe?

Spelling

- face masks are tfeivefec
- slow down the rpdase
- use deohmema face coverings
- masks, bandanas and rsevcas
- other gaonisoitasrn
- reported etciionnf rates are lower
- Health extrpse in the USA
- give a little etoroipcnt
- nsruse, doctors and other key workers
- masks are uninitefsifc
- prevent people from catching the srivu
- social nsnticiadg

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. a	4. i	5. c
6. b	7. j	8. f	9. h	10. d

Role Play

Role A – No Face Masks

You think no face masks is the biggest COVID-19 worry. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): money, touching things or people in public.

Role B – Money

You think money is the biggest COVID-19 worry. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): no face masks, touching things or people in public.

Role C – Touching Things

You think touching things is the biggest COVID-19 worry. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): money, no face masks or people in public.

Role D – People in public

You think people in public is the biggest COVID-19 worry. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): money, touching things or no face masks.

Speaking – Worries

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest worries about COVID-19 at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| • No face masks | • Bad governments |
| • Food shortages | • When covid-19 will go |
| • Money | • Touching things |
| • Staying at home | • People in public |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.