

## COVID-19 Update – Airborne Transmission

Since the onset of the disease that would be named COVID-19, there have been questions about how it's transmitted & how to decrease person-to-person transmission. It was clear in the early stages, and later proved, that COVID was transmitted more efficiently (easier) than either SARS or MERS, the other two human beta-coronaviruses. More and more evidence has accumulated that suggests that airborne transmission does occur and these airborne droplets are much smaller and may quickly dry in the air to be a virus particle(s). These micro droplets or particles travel farther (9-16 feet), persist in the air longer (minutes to hours), and travel into the lungs more readily than larger droplets associated with droplet spread. More than 200 scientists from 32 countries petitioned the WHO to add Airborne to the ways COVID is transmitted. The data is being evaluated.

Why is it important? Airborne transmission likely explains many of the superspreading events and becomes important in trying to reduce transmission indoors, outdoors when in close proximity, or in events with aerosol-increasing events such as singing, shouting, exertion, coughing, sneezing, and even just talking. The 6 ft safety zone, while often adequate, would not be as "safe" with airborne transmission.

Below are some recommended links to articles if you're interested in quickly learning more about the subject. They either cite or, in many cases, have links to the actual study(ies) being explained or discussed. There will also be a secondary page that will contain links for going deeper into the science/application of the subject.

**Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (CIDRAP) – More Data Supports COVID-19 Aerosol Transmission:** <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/08/yes-more-data-support-covid-19-aerosol-transmission>

**CIDRAP – Experts Ignoring Airborne Spread is Risky:** <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/07/global-experts-ignoring-airborne-covid-spread-risky>

**CIDRAP – Feb 13 Article Asks the Question of Droplet vs Airborne & Which Mask to Adopt for HCWs on the Front Lines:** <https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2020/02/unmasked-experts-explain-necessary-respiratory-protection-covid-19>

**Advisory – Explains Why 239 Scientists from 32 Countries Ask the WHO to Acknowledge Airborne Transmission of COVID-19:** <https://www.advisory.com/daily-briefing/2020/07/07/airborne-transmission>

**Healthline – Outlines the Evidence That Airborne Transmission Plays a Bigger Role & How Lay Persons Can be Safer:** <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/experts-say-covid-19-is-airborne-heres-how-you-can-stay-safe#How-COVID-19-spreads-through-aerosols>