



# CDC risk of coronavirus transmission outdoors greatly exaggerated, bombshell report finds



**Alexandria Hein**

Tue, May 11, 2021, 10:49 AM · 3 min read



Susan Collins

A stunning [New York Times report](#) claims that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's estimate that the risk of [coronavirus](#) transmission while outdoors is around 10% is greatly exaggerated.

The CDC has cited the estimate to back up its recommendation that vaccinated individuals do away with masks in certain outdoor situations, but should keep wearing masks during others.

According to the Times, the 10% benchmark is based "partly on a misclassification" of some virus transmission in Singapore at various construction sites that may have actually taken place in indoor settings. Singapore also classified settings that were a mix of indoors and outdoors as outdoors, including construction building sites, the outlet reported.

## TRENDING

**More than 100 Republican former officials to seek reforms, threaten new party**

NBC News · 3 min read



**Shrunk head artifact used as prop in John Huston film revealed to be human**

NBC News · 4 min read



**In latest phone scam, a fake DEA agent tries to steal your money using gift cards**

Good Morning Ame... · 5 min read



**World's most vaccinated nation sees COVID-19 resurgence, raising questions over Chinese vaccine**

The Week · 2 min read



**Biden announces Uber, Lyft rides amid July 4 vaccine push**

Associated Press · 3 min read



0:15 / 0:15

Still, the number of cases reported at the various sites did not add up to as much as 10% of transmission, but was more like 1% or less, the report stated.

In a Senate committee hearing on Tuesday, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, pressed CDC director Dr. Rochelle Walensky on the report and said it was one of three recent examples of conflicting, confusing guidance issued by the agency, with the other two involving school reopenings and summer camps.

Walensky said the 10% benchmark came from a meta-analysis topline result from a study published in the Journal of Infectious Disease back in November.

"The topline result was less than 10%, published in the Journal of Infectious Diseases, one of our top infectious disease journals," she said. "That is where that came from, it was from a published study that synthesized studies from many places."

**CDC COULD EASE CORONAVIRUS INDOOR MASK GUIDANCE: FAUCI, GOTTLIEB**

Collins requested that the full report be placed in the record.

"There are limited data on outdoor transmission," a CDC official told the Times. "The data we do have supports the hypothesis that the risk of outdoor transmission is low. 10 percent is a conservative estimate from a recent systematic review of peer-reviewed papers. CDC cannot provide the specific risk level for every activity in every community and

**POPULAR**



**Is the CDC exaggerating the risk of outdoor COVID-19 transmission?**

The Week



**Do This Every Morning Can Snap Back Sagging Skin**

Ad • Beverly Hills MD



**CDC Director Defends Agency's Use of Inflated Outdoor COVID Transmission Rate**

National Review



**CDC Says When You Can Take Your Mask Off**

Story continues

Our goal is to create a safe and engaging place for users to connect over interests and passions. In order to improve our community experience, we are temporarily suspending article commenting.



Joe Scarborough says Biden 'overreacting in other direction' and challenges him to admit Covid not outdoor risk

The Independent



Homeowners With No Missed Payments Get Big Break

Ad • LendGo

RECOMMENDED STORIES



MarketWatch

Americans are increasingly going out to eat, visiting friends and warming to 'normal' life amid the

A majority of Americans (54%) report having gone out to eat over the past week, according to the latest installment of the Axios-Ipsos Coronavirus Index, marking the first time in mor... 22h ago



People

Jimmy Fallon Shares Selfie with Wife Nancy Juvonen and Daughters for Mother's Day: 'Great Family'

Jimmy Fallon wrote a sweet tribute in their dog Gary's voice for Mother's Day, writing that the pup is "having the best life" with Winnie, 7½, and Franny, 6 2d ago



Ad • LifestyleRocket.com

Born Before 1965? Claim These 15 Senior Rebates

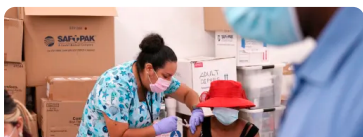
Don't make a move until you read this.



USA TODAY

Ford F-150 electric pickup gets a name and a reveal date: Meet the Ford F-150 Lightning

Ford revealed the name of its long-anticipated electric F-150, saying it plans to unveil the vehicle on May 19: Meet the Ford F-150 Lightning. 2d ago



Associated Press

Poll: Most in US who remain unvaccinated need convincing



Here's What Dr. Fauci Actually Said About Wearing Face Masks Indoors

Refinery29



CDC no longer 'gold standard' for me -Sen. Collins

Reuters Videos



CDC under pressure

ABC News Videos