

Facemask usage during the COVID-19 pandemic among people with primary ciliary dyskinesia



Written by **Eva SL Pedersen**

Why did we do this research and why is it important?

Facemasks that cover nose and mouth can prevent the spread of COVID-19. They are particularly important for preventing infections in people with a chronic disease such as primary ciliary dyskinesia (PCD). PCD causes chronic symptoms such as cough, runny nose, and difficulty breathing. These symptoms might make it uncomfortable for people with PCD to wear a facemask and it is important to find out if people avoid wearing facemasks. Here, we studied if people with PCD wear facemasks in public and whether their symptoms made it difficult.

How did we do this research?

We analysed data from the COVID-PCD. COVID-PCD is a research study that includes people with PCD from anywhere in the world. The study was set up in spring 2020 in collaboration between people with PCD and researchers from the University of Bern in Switzerland. In October 2020, COVID-PCD study participants completed an online questionnaire with questions about facemasks.

What did we find out?

In total, 282 COVID-PCD participants completed the facemask questionnaire. Almost all (89%) wore a facemask whenever they left their house, but many people also avoided public places. Half of the people said that it was uncomfortable to wear a mask because of symptoms such as cough, runny nose, or difficulty breathing. Most of these people still wore facemasks in public. Only people coming from a country where

facemasks were not mandatory did not wear a facemask in public.

What does it mean?

We found that people with PCD carefully protected themselves by wearing facemasks almost everywhere in public. The widespread use may be because of the great effort taken by PCD support groups worldwide to encourage the use facemask.

Further information: www.covid19pcd.ispm.ch

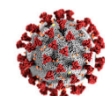
Full article reference: Pedersen ESL, Collaud ENR, Mozun R, Dexter K, Kruljac C, Silberschmidt H, Lucas JS; COVID-PCD patient advisory group, Goutaki M, Kuehni CE. Facemask Usage Among People With Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Participatory Project. *Int J Public Health*. 2021 Dec 15;66:1604277. doi: 10.3389/ijph.2021.1604277.

You can find the full article in English here: [link](#)

Contact:

Dr. Eva SL Pedersen
(eva.pedersen@ispm.unibe.ch) and

Prof. Claudia E Kuehni
(claudia.kuehni@ispm.unibe.ch)



COVID-PCD