

# Health, Safety and Travel During the Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic

Hilary Godwin • May 28, 2020

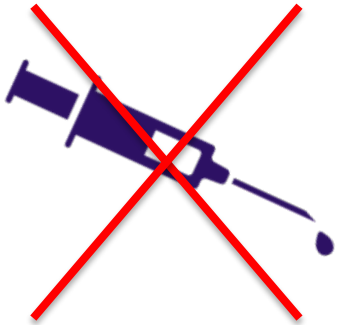


UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON  
**SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

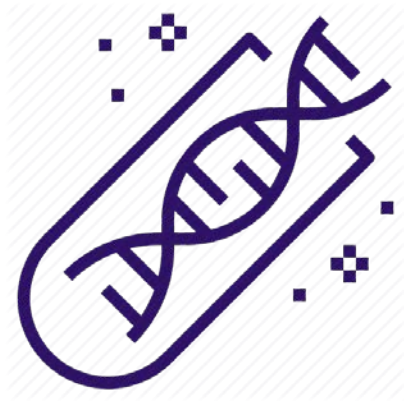


# Why has the COVID-19 pandemic been so challenging?

---



# Each type of test has its own limitations



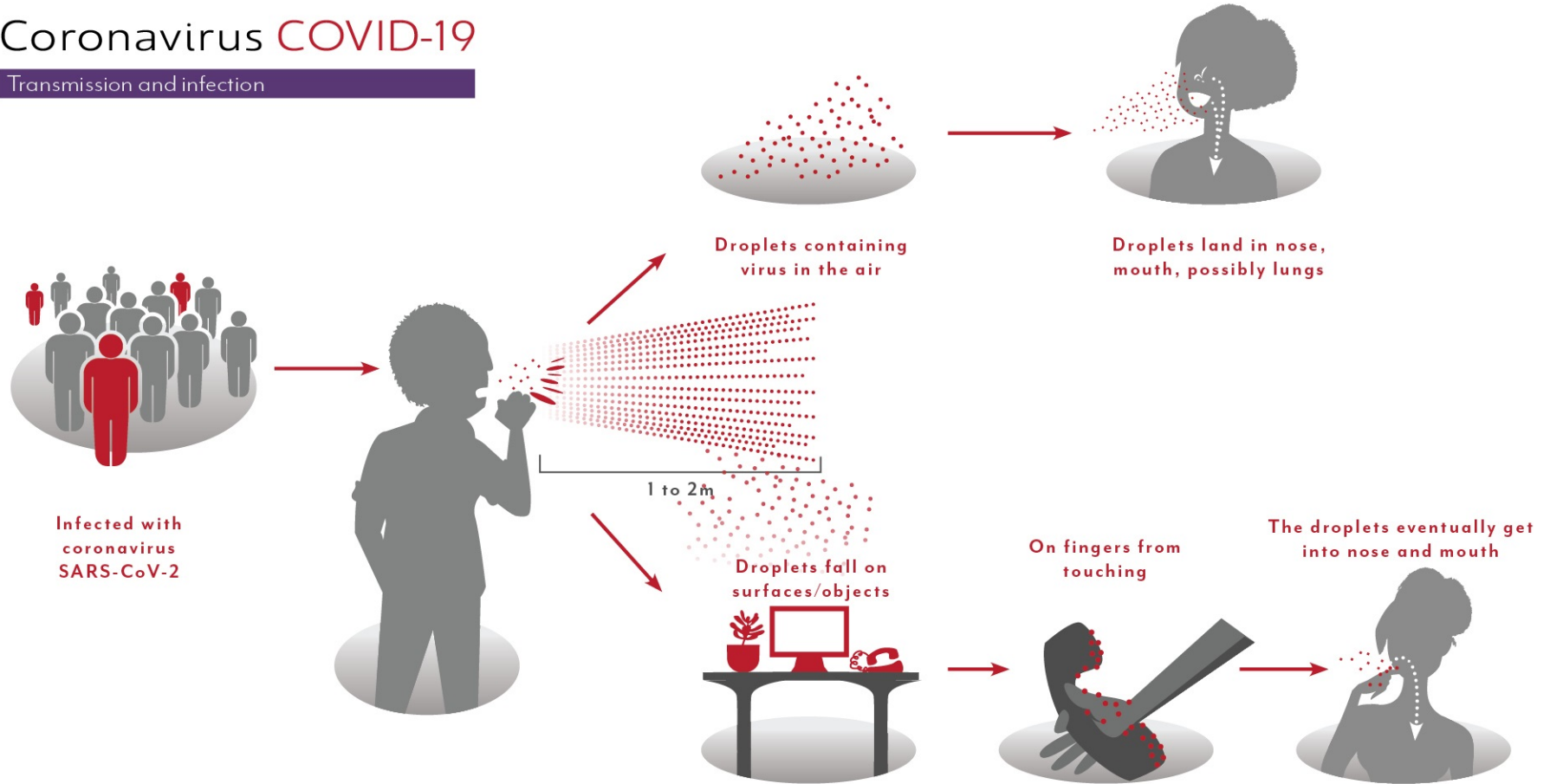
**PCR-based or antigen tests** indicate whether **currently** infected *only* *if* high viral load



**Antibody-based tests** indicate whether **previously** infected but *not* whether immune to further infection

# Coronavirus COVID-19

Transmission and infection



Infected with coronavirus SARS-CoV-2

Droplets containing virus in the air

Droplets land in nose, mouth, possibly lungs

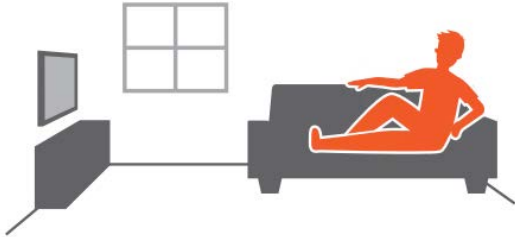
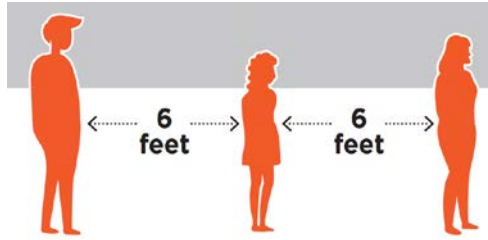
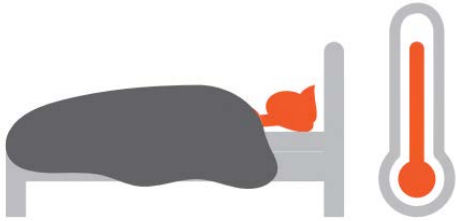
1 to 2m

Droplets fall on surfaces/objects

On fingers from touching

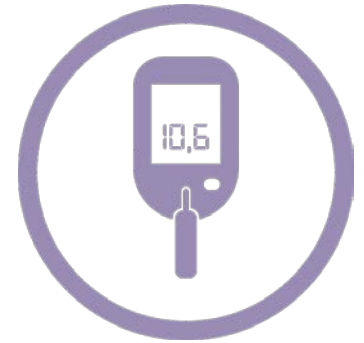
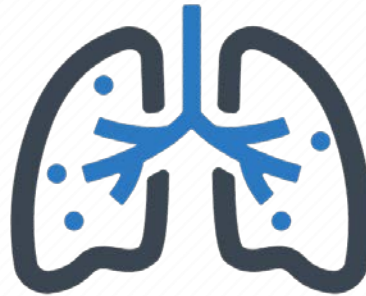
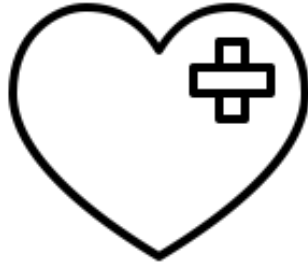
The droplets eventually get into nose and mouth

# Measures that we know reduce risk of transmission of COVID-19



**It is particularly important to protect individuals at higher risk for severe symptoms**

---



# How this specifically relates to air travel

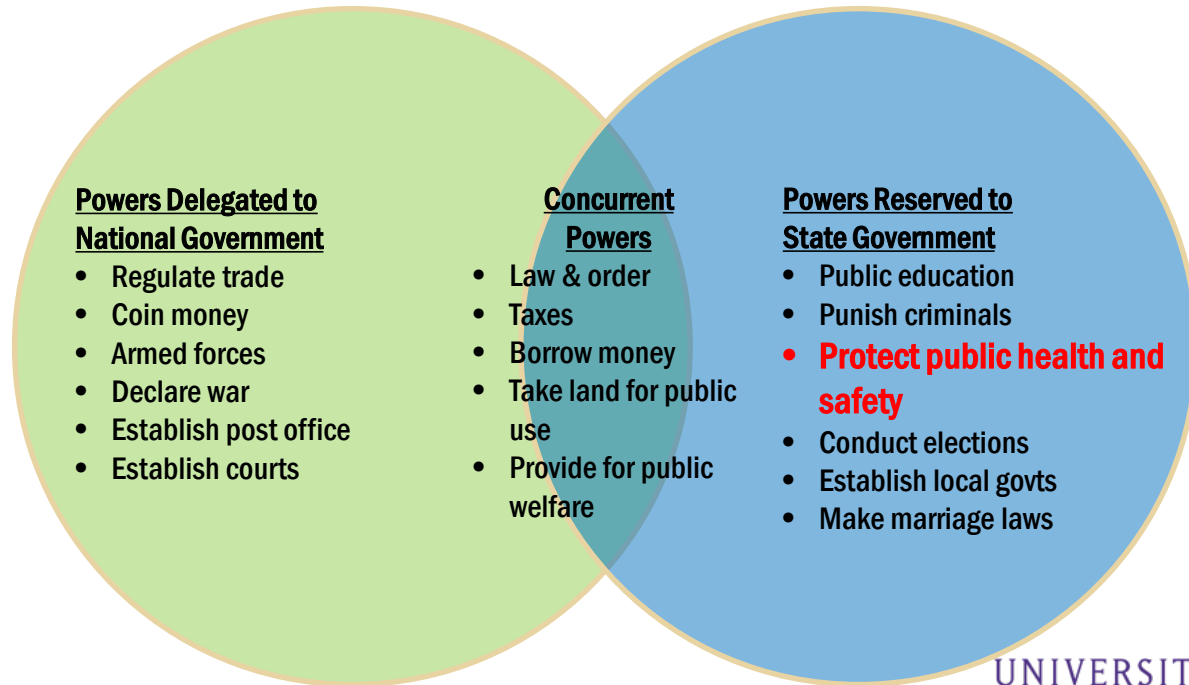
---

## Critical to:

- Maintain social distancing in airport and on planes
- Require employees and travelers to wear face coverings
- Require HEPA filtration systems to be used on ALL planes
- Frequently disinfect high-touch surfaces and provide ready access to hand sanitizer
- Thoroughly disinfect planes between flights
- Provide additional warnings for high-risk individuals





# Protecting public health and safety is a right reserved to the states under federalism

---





# Example: Washington State's Phased Approach

WASHINGTON'S PHASED APPROACH Reopening Business and Modifying Physical Distancing Measures				
	 Phase 1	 Phase 2	 Phase 3	 Phase 4
<b>High-Risk Populations*</b>	Continue to Stay Home, Stay Healthy	Continue to Stay Home, Stay Healthy	Continue to Stay Home, Stay Healthy	Resume public interactions, with physical distancing
<b>Recreation</b>	Some outdoor recreation (hunting, fishing, golf, boating, hiking)	All outdoor recreation involving fewer than 5 people outside your household (camping, beaches, etc.)	- Outdoor group rec. sports activities (5-50 people) - Recreational facilities at <50% capacity (public pools, etc.)	Resume all recreational activity
<b>Gatherings (social, spiritual)</b>	- None - Drive in spiritual service with one household per vehicle	Gather with no more than 5 people outside your household per week	Allow gatherings with no more than 50 people	Allow gatherings with >50 people
<b>Travel</b>	Only essential travel	Limited non-essential travel within proximity of your home	Resume non-essential travel	Continue non-essential travel
<b>Business/Employers</b>	- Essential businesses open - Existing construction that meet agreed upon criteria - Landscaping - Automobile sales - Retail (curb-side pick-up orders only) - Car washes - Pet walkers	- Remaining manufacturing - New construction - In-home/domestic services (nannies, housecleaning, etc.) - Retail (in-store purchases allowed with restrictions) - Real estate - Professional services/office-based businesses (telework remains strongly encouraged) - Hair and nail salons/Barbers - Housecleaning - Restaurants <50% capacity table size no larger than 5	- Restaurants <75% capacity/ table size no larger than 10 - Bars at <25% capacity - Indoor gyms at <50% capacity - Movie theaters at <50% capacity - Government (telework remains strongly encouraged) - Libraries - Museums - All other business activities not yet listed except for nightclubs and events with greater than 50 people	- Nightclubs - Concert venues - Large sporting events - Resume unrestricted staffing of worksites, but continue to practice physical distancing and good hygiene

\* High-risk populations are currently defined by CDC as: persons 65 years of age and older; people of all ages with underlying medical conditions (particularly not well controlled) including people with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma, people who have serious heart conditions, people who are immunocompromised, people with severe obesity, people with diabetes, people with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, and people with liver disease; people who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility.

- Each phase will last a **minimum** of three weeks
- Exact triggers/metrics for moving to next phase (or reinstating restrictions) still TBD
- Counties allowed to apply to move to next phase when they have met requirements

# Nonetheless, there are critical roles for federal government and need for national guidance

---

- Managing supply chain for essential items (e.g., test kits, PPE, face coverings)
- Providing guidance for interstate and international travel
- Setting national standards/making available tools for contact tracing and associated data collection and sharing
- Issuing protections for our nation's most vulnerable (e.g., residents in long-term care facilities)
- Providing fiscal relief for states, local governments, businesses and individuals

# How this specifically relates to air travel

---

## Critical need for:

- National guidance for safe practices in airports and on airplanes so that travelers can expect consistently safe experiences as they travel to/from different states in the U.S.
- National repository for flight manifests that includes contact information for all travelers that all local health jurisdictions can access for contact tracing
- National communications campaign for employees and travelers about the importance of adhering to all of these measures both in airports and on planes