



PSA

Date: July 24, 2020
To: All Media
From: Stephanie Krell, PIO for Unified Command Team
Subject: **CDC Study of COVID-19 Positive Hairstylists**

In a powerful example of the effectiveness of masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19, two COVID-19 positive hairstylists in Missouri worked and were symptomatic, but did not infect any of the 139 clients they saw because the stylists and clients all wore masks.

The case was first publicly reported in June by the local health department in Springfield, Missouri. Last week, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) published a study in its weekly Morbidity and Mortality Report.

In June, Springfield-Greene County Health Department Director of Health Clay Goddard said in a press release, "This is exciting news about the value of masking to prevent COVID-19."

The health department talked to 104 of the clients, and all wore a face covering, with 98.1 percent wearing it the whole time and 1.9 percent for part of the time. About half wore a cloth face covering, about half wore a surgical mask, and a handful wore N95 respirators.

The first stylist to contract COVID-19 continued working for eight days and infected another stylist, who worked for five days before getting tested and staying home.

Both wore masks as they spent between 15 and 45 minutes with 139 clients. COVID-19 is spread mainly between persons in close proximity to one another, and the more closely people interact, and the longer the interaction, the higher the risk for transmission.

The CDC concluded the city of Springfield's policy reducing business capacities to 25 percent of normal and recommending masks, and the salon's policy of requiring masks, were "likely important factors" in preventing spread of COVID-19.

Transmission rates from asymptomatic and presymptomatic are not precisely known, but recent studies estimate the range to be between 40-50%, so the CDC policy requiring face masks in public should be considered to reduce the further spread of COVID-19.

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