

WHO spokesperson walks back comments.

This week a WHO spokesperson indicated it is rare for asymptomatic people to spread the virus that causes COVID-19. They are now correcting themselves.

Part of the misunderstanding is confusion between the terms presymptomatic and asymptomatic. Presymptomatic is someone who is infected but has not yet developed symptoms. They are proven to be able to shed virus and thus spread the disease prior to symptoms. Asymptomatic is someone who is infected but never has symptoms. One can only make that conclusion after they have recovered.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2020/06/09/873166418/who-creates-confusion-about-asymptomatic-spread-here-s-what-we-know>

On Tuesday, WHO held a social media [Q+A](#) to clarify the comments. "I was responding to a question at the press conference. I wasn't stating a policy of WHO or anything like that," Van Kerkhove said. "I think that's a misunderstanding to state that asymptomatic transmission globally is very rare."

<https://www.statnews.com/2020/06/09/who-comments-asymptomatic-spread-covid-19/>

"The WHO created confusion yesterday when it reported that asymptomatic patients rarely spread the disease," an email from the Harvard Global Health Institute said Tuesday. "All of the best evidence suggests that people without symptoms can and do readily spread SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes Covid-19. In fact, some evidence suggests that people may be most infectious in the days before they become symptomatic — that is, in the presymptomatic phase when they feel well, have no symptoms, but may be shedding substantial amounts of virus."

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/22/health/cdc-coronavirus-estimates-symptoms-deaths/index.html>

The CDC also says its "best estimate" is that 0.4% of people who show symptoms and have Covid-19 will die, and the agency estimates that 40% of coronavirus transmission is occurring before people feel sick.

It is clear to me you can catch COVID-19 from someone who does not have symptoms. It is estimated 40% of people who get the disease get it that way. The CDC and WHO still recommend people wear masks.

I stand by my statement.

1. YOU NEED TO ASSUME EVERYONE YOU ENCOUNTER HAS THE VIRUS!!!!
EVERYONE!!!!!!
2. YOU NEED TO ASSUME WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER ANYONE THAT YOU ARE A
CARRIER AND COULD INFECT THEM
3. Read 1 and 2 again
4. Do what 3 says