**WHO Issues Mask-Wearing Guidelines for Children**

**世界卫生组织发布儿童口罩佩戴指南**

As millions of children around the world are going back to school, the World Health Organization (WHO) says those aged 6 to 12 should wear masks to fight the spread of coronavirus. But children younger than 6 should not wear them.

世界卫生组织表示，随着全球数百万儿童重返校园，6至12岁的儿童应佩戴口罩，以防止冠状病毒传播。不过6岁以下的孩子则不应该佩戴口罩。

The WHO announced its guidelines this week following widespread belief that younger children are less likely to get infected compared to adults.

世卫组织本周宣布了其指导方针——此前人们普遍认为，与成年人相比年幼的儿童感染病毒的可能性更小。

The health organization says the decision to use masks for children between 6 to 12 should be based on the following conditions:

世卫组织表示，给6到12岁的儿童使用口罩应该基于以下条件：

A child’s environment. Is there widespread transmission in the area where the child lives? Does the child have contact with high-risk groups -- such as elderly adults or those with underlying health conditions?

孩子的生活环境。孩子居住的地区疫情是否广泛传播?孩子是否接触过高危人群，如老年人或有潜在健康问题的人群?

A child’s ability to safely and correctly use a mask. Are adults able to help put on, take off, and safely wear masks?

孩子安全正确地使用口罩的能力。成年人是否能够帮助他们戴上、摘下以及安全地佩戴口罩?

A child’s access to masks. Are they able to wash them? Can they get new ones from home, the school, or childcare facility?

孩子获取口罩的几率。他们有能力清洗口罩吗，他们能从家里、学校或托儿所拿到新的口罩吗?

The effects of mask-wearing on a child’s learning, disabilities, or underlying diseases. In these cases, the decision for a child to wear a mask should be made with teachers, parents, caregivers, and/or healthcare professionals.

戴口罩对儿童学习、便利性或引发潜在疾病的影响。考虑到这几种情况，孩子是否需要佩戴口罩的决定应该由老师、家长、护理人员和/或医疗保健专业人员决定。

For those 12 and older, the WHO says they should wear masks just like adults. This is especially important in cases where physical distancing cannot be guaranteed and in areas of high transmission.

对于12岁以上的人，世卫组织表示他们应该像成年人一样佩戴口罩。这在无法保证物理距离的情况下以及在疫情高发区域尤为重要。

The WHO advises children to not wear masks when playing sports or doing physical activities, such as running, jumping, or playing on the playground. Wearing a mask during physical activity may make breathing difficult.

世界卫生组织建议孩子们在进行体育运动或体育活动时不要戴口罩，比如跑步、跳跃或在操场上玩耍时。因为在进行体能活动时戴口罩可能会导致呼吸困难。

However, when organizing these activities for children, it is important to follow other public health measures: maintain at least a 1-meter distance from others, limit the number of children playing together, and provide access to hand-washing areas and supplies.

需要注意的是在为儿童组织这些活动时，必须遵循其他公共卫生措施：与其他人保持至少1米的距离，限制一起玩耍的儿童人数，并提供洗手区和洗护用品。

The guidelines come after more than 23 million people have been infected with COVID-19 along with 810,000 deaths so far. Those are the numbers reported by Johns Hopkins University. But experts say the real numbers are even higher.

该指南出台前已有2300多万人感染了新冠肺炎，其中81万人死亡——这一数据来源于约翰霍普金斯大学。但专家们表示，实际数量甚至更高。

Access to education

儿童受教育的机会

The WHO and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) also note that no child should be denied access to an education if a mask is unavailable.

世卫组织和联合国儿童基金会(UNICEF)还指出，即使在没有口罩的情况下，任何儿童都不应被剥夺接受教育的权力。

Over the weekend, British medical officials have said, “Very few, if any, children or teenagers will come to long-term harm from COVID-19 due solely to attending school.”

上周末英国医疗部门表示：“或许这种情况确实存在，但很少有儿童或青少年会单纯地因为上学而长期遭受新冠肺炎的危害。”

Compare this, they add, to the long-term harm many children and young people may experience from not attending school.

他们补充道，与此相比许多儿童和年轻人可能因不上学而遭遇长期危害。

I’m Anna Matteo.

安娜·马特奥报道。

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