We respect the right of individuals. We placed an emphasis on the rights of individuals. We wore them in close-quartered public settings and can infect those nearby who breathe in the virus. These small aerosol particles remain in the air for long periods and can infect others who inhaled them into their lungs.

We believe that the lack of emphasis placed on the prevention of aerosol droplet infections is a contributory factor to the rising case numbers in recent weeks. The face covering must itself only that can prevent aerosol droplet inhalation is an N95.

Unfortunately, in some parts of America, the proportion of citizens routinely wearing an N95 mask is 25%. Increase in the known rate of infection and noninfected persons leads to a low level of transmission. The lack of personal protective equipment and the lack of effectiveness, there is a need to be near universal alertness in the wearing of these masks where it possibly can. There is no perfect solution, the development of an N95 mask and the ability to wear an N95 mask have access to this level of protection. All healthcare workers, let alone for those in the community. We are still healing from the wound we have suffered.

The key point

Though standard masks are imperfect in blocking or trapping, their combination does create a barrier for the aerosol particles to enter the lungs. While we wait for a vaccine, an effective cure, or the unlikely event that all戴口罩的people will wear masks that mandate universal mask wearing in all indoor public places, we can have confidence in wearing masks even for the production of N95 masks so that all individuals can be covered.

Ramp up production of N95s

The challenge we face as a country is how to do we put such sufficient N95 masks even for health care workers, let alone for widespread distribution. It is unclear why this is the case, as it is well within the immense industrial capacity of the United States to ramp up national production of these simple, low-tech safety devices.

Our current infection control strategies are unlikely to succeed. The public health approach will fail due to the imbalance between testing and tracing resources compared with the large and increasing number of documented and undocumented infections.

The "lockdown" approach employed by the Chinese government to rid Wuhan of the virus is not feasible in the open democracy of our country.

Waiting for "herd immunity" would result in widespread death and disability in America while again overwhelming our hospitals.

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Wearing an N95 mask at a restaurant in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Dr. Michael Reed and Dr. Marl Peraza

As intensive care unit specialists in New York City, we are concerned about the increasing rates of COVID-19 infection in our state and our desire to stop the spread of COVID-19 in our hospitals, in parts of the USA, and across the world. We are also apprehensive about the potential for aerosol transmission of COVID-19, which is designed to prevent inhalation of aerosols compared with the near perfect effec-tion blocking performance of medical-grade N95 masks. Though standard masks are imperfect in blocking or trapping, their combination does create a barrier for the aerosol particles to enter the lungs. While we wait for a vaccine, an effective cure, or the unlikely event that all戴口罩的people will wear masks that mandate universal mask wearing in all indoor public places, we can have confidence in wearing masks even for the production of N95 masks so that all individuals can be covered.

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