

NOTEWORTHY

# WHO AND MIASMA THEORY

18.05.2021

Coming from asthma and air pollution research I have supported aerosol research and mask wearing during the COVID-19 pandemic long before the WHO.

[https://twitter.com/science\\_surf/status/1283689607759114240](https://twitter.com/science_surf/status/1283689607759114240)

But wait there is an historical background for the dumb hand washing videos promoted by Maria Van Kerkhove during the first months of the pandemic.

[WIRED](#) has the interesting story that goes far back into history.

Part of medical rhetoric is understanding why certain ideas take hold and others don't. So as spring turned to summer, Randall started to investigate how Wells' contemporaries perceived him. That's how she found the writings of Alexander Langmuir, the influential chief epidemiologist of the newly established CDC. Like his peers, Langmuir had been brought up in the Gospel of Personal Cleanliness, an obsession that made handwashing the bedrock of US public health policy. He seemed to view Wells' ideas about airborne transmission as retrograde, seeing in them a slide back toward an ancient, irrational terror of bad air—the "miasma theory" that had prevailed for centuries. Langmuir dismissed them as little more than "interesting theoretical points."

Addendum 24 Nov 2022

two years later...

 **World Health Organization (WHO)**   
@WHO

**FACT: #COVID19 is NOT airborne.**

The #coronavirus is mainly transmitted through droplets generated when an infected person coughs, sneezes or speaks.

To protect yourself:

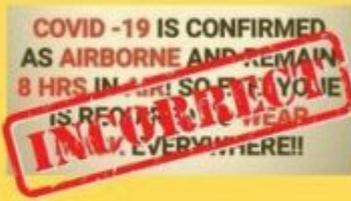
- keep 1m distance from others
- disinfect surfaces frequently
- wash/rub your 🙌
- avoid touching your 👁️👂👄

**FACT CHECK: COVID-19 is NOT airborne**

The virus that causes COVID-19 is mainly transmitted through droplets generated when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks. **These droplets are too heavy to hang in the air. They quickly fall on floors or surfaces.**

You can be infected by breathing in the virus if you are within 1 metre of a person who has COVID-19, or by touching a contaminated surface and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth before washing your hands.

To protect yourself, keep at least 1 metre distance from others and disinfect surfaces that are touched frequently. Regularly clean your hands thoroughly and avoid touching your eyes, mouth, and nose.



This message spreading on social media is incorrect. Help stop misinformation. Verify the facts before sharing.

 World Health Organization

March 28 2020

#Coronavirus #COVID19

 PAHO/WHO and 6 others

12:44 PM · Mar 28, 2020

SCIENCEINSIDER | HEALTH

# WHO's departing chief scientist regrets errors in debate over whether SARS-CoV-2 spreads through air

Soumya Swaminathan says the agency should have acknowledged aerosol transmission "much earlier" but is proud of work on vaccine equity

23 NOV 2022 · 2:45 PM · BY [KAI KUPFERSCHMIDT](#)

*ov-2-spreads*

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