

Risk Assessment & Mitigations Strategies for COVID-19

June 2, 2020



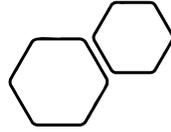
What is Risk?

Risk involves uncertainty about the effects/implications of an activity with respect to something that humans value (such as health, well-being, wealth, property or the environment), often focusing on negative, undesirable consequences.

More simply: **Risk** is the possibility or chance of loss, danger or injury.



Risk Management



The identification, evaluation, and prioritization of risks (risk assessment) followed by implementation of risk controls to minimize the probability or impacts of unfortunate outcomes (risk mitigation).

Risk Assessment

Broadly speaking, a **risk assessment** is the combined effort of:

- identifying and analyzing potential (future) events that may negatively impact individuals, assets, and/or the environment (i.e. risk analysis); and
- making judgments "on the tolerability of the risk on the basis of a risk analysis" while considering influencing factors (i.e. risk evaluation).



Risk Assessment Table

		Severity of Harm (Impact)		
		Low (L)	Medium (M)	High (H)
Likelihood	High (H)	3	4	5
	Medium (M)	2	3	4
	Low (L)	1	2	3

Weighing Risks

- Individuals will need to weigh some risks on their own now that states are opening up – (should you still go to a restaurant or bar that has re-open? Is it safer if people are only allowed to dine outside?)
- The main way people are getting sick with SARS-CoV-2 is from respiratory droplets spreading between people in close quarters.
- The risk of catching the coronavirus, simply put, “is breathing in everybody’s breath”

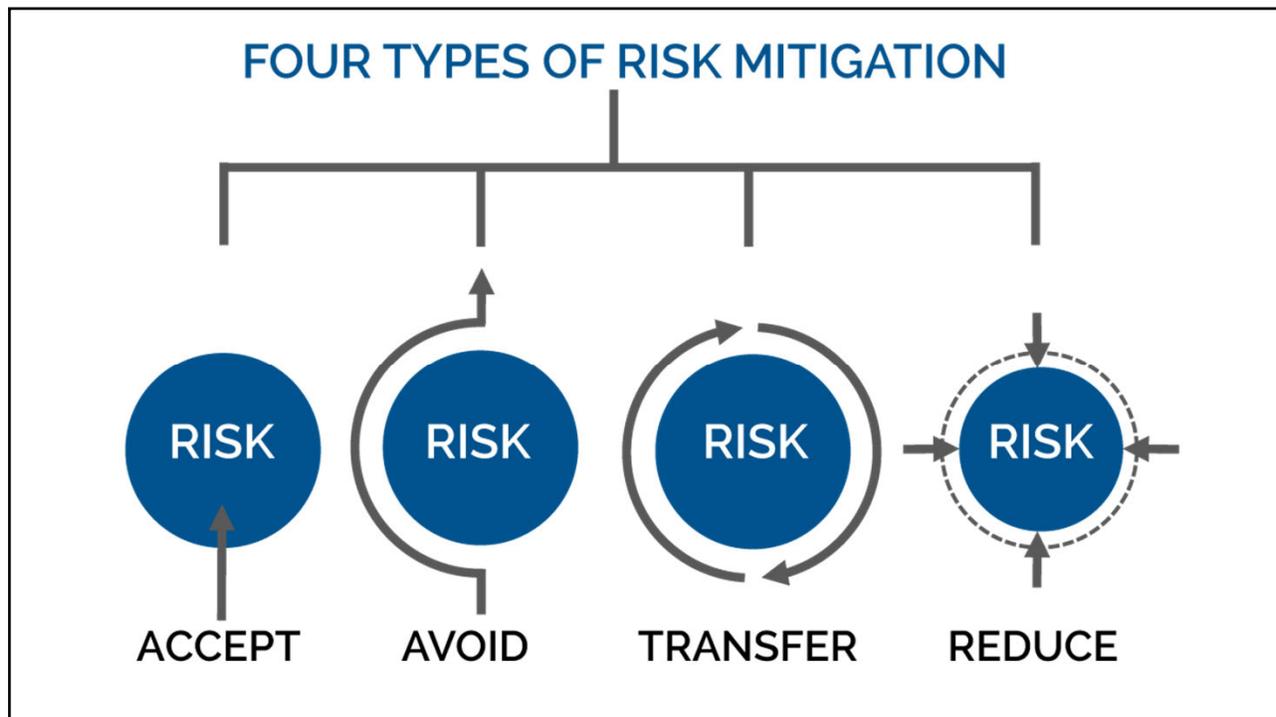


LOWEST RISK	MODERATE RISK	HIGHER RISK	HIGHEST RISK
			
HOME ALONE OR WITH HOUSEMATES	OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES	OUTDOOR GATHERINGS	INDOOR GATHERINGS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Stay home as much as possible. •Try to allow only people you live with into your home. •Wash your hands. •If you're sick, stay home and isolate from housemates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Wash your hands and don't touch your face. •Stay at least 6 feet from people you don't live with. •Wear a mask. •Avoid shared surfaces, like swings or benches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Wash your hands and don't touch your face. •Stay at least 6 feet from people you don't live with. •Wear a mask. •Don't share food, toys, and other items, and avoid shared surfaces. •Participate in events like these infrequently. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Wash your hands and don't touch your face. •Stay at least 6 feet from people you don't live with. •Wear a mask. •Don't share food, toys, and other items, and avoid shared surfaces. •Open windows for better ventilation. •Try to avoid gathering indoors as much as possible.

Consider Risk Across Four Dimensions

There's always risk

“Wearing a mask is not going to completely reduce your risk, hand-washing is not going to completely reduce your risk, and staying a distance away from people in an enclosed space is not going to completely reduce your risk [but] the concurrent use of all those strategies will hopefully reduce your risk down to a lower level. We can never get to zero. There's no such thing as zero risk.”



Community Mitigation

- Community mitigation activities are actions that people and communities can take to slow the spread of infectious diseases, including COVID-19. Community mitigation is especially important before a vaccine or drug becomes widely available.
- Because some actions can be very disruptive to daily life, mitigation activities will be different depending on how much disease has spread within the community, what the community population is like, and the ability to take these actions at the local level.

Putting Community Mitigation Into Practice is Based on:

- **Emphasizing individual responsibility for taking recommended personal-level actions**
- Empowering businesses, schools, and community organizations to take recommended actions, particularly in ways that protect persons at increased risk of severe illness
- **Focusing on settings that provide critical infrastructure or services to individuals at increased risk of severe illness**
- Minimizing disruptions to daily life to the extent possible



References

Is There Any Safe Way to Socialize During the Coronavirus Pandemic?
<https://time.com/5835818/socializing-coronavirus-social-distancing/>

6 feet away isn't enough. Covid-19 risk involves other dimensions, too
<https://www.vox.com/science-and-health/2020/5/22/21265180/cdc-coronavirus-surfaces-social-distancing-guidelines-covid-19-risks>

Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/community-mitigation.html>

Interesting Articles

Outbreak Investigation of COVID-19 Among Residents and Staff of an Independent and Assisted Living Community for Older Adults in Seattle, Washington <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/fullarticle/2766448>

Asymptomatic COVID-19 cases may be more common than suspected

<https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/asymptomatic-covid-19-cases-may-be-more-common-suspected-n1215481>

Health Care Providers Get Limited Immunity Under State Coronavirus Law

<https://www.natlawreview.com/article/health-care-providers-get-limited-immunity-under-state-coronavirus-law>

MMWR - Characteristics of Health Care Personnel with COVID-19 — United States,

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6915e6.htm?s_cid=mm6915e6_w

MMWR - High COVID-19 Attack Rate Among Attendees at Events at a Church — Arkansas, March 2020

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6920e2.htm?s_cid=mm6920e2_e&deliveryName=DM28707#suggestedcitation

A second hairstylist who worked while symptomatic potentially exposed 56 clients to Covid-19, officials say

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/24/us/missouri-hairstylists-coronavirus-clients-trnd/index.html>

When Can I See My Grandkids?

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/20/well/family/coronavirus-grandchildren-grandparents-when-can-i-see-my-grandkids.html?referringSource=articleShare>