

Issue 5
April 16, 2022

GBS Class of 1969 Newsletter

Hello and
welcome!

This is our fifth class newsletter following our 50th Reunion. Each classmate's entry is accompanied by an email address so you can follow up and continue to be in touch.

There's more contact information (phone numbers and addresses) in the Directory section of the class website: www.gbs1969.com.

If you want to add to your bio or contact information on the site, send it to rlesaar@mac.com and we'll get it posted.

Stay well.





Kate McNeal (was Kathy Schwark)

katemcneal51@gmail.com

I retired in 2019 after teaching nursing for 10 years at Manhattan Technical College. I retain my active nursing license and currently volunteer at community health clinic which serves uninsured and under insured in our county. I serve as a Parish Nurse for my church as well. I had a “bucket” list when I retired and I completed several things on it since retiring. Number one on the list was taking a Master Gardener course through our local County Extension and became certified. I volunteer at the Kansas State University Gardens as Committee Co-chair of the Butterfly Garden area. I am also a “Purple Thumb” volunteer working with K-State horticultural students throughout the gardens and green houses. I am an avid home gardener as well, even more so since the pandemic. My husband, Dave has been retired for several years and enjoys hunting and fly fishing. He developed and continues to write a daily blog and website related to all things hunting/fishing: huntfortriley.com.

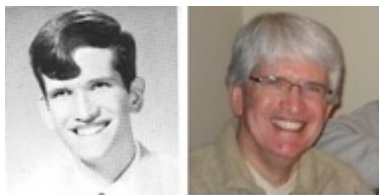
We enjoy our 12 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Our youngest granddaughters live 15 minutes away. I actually taught them every day for 9 months during the pandemic for their remote schooling so their parents could continue to work full-time. We did a little traveling before things shut down, visiting our daughter and family in Pennsylvania and another daughter in Louisiana. We had planned to see our son in California but COVID hit and that was that. We plan to do more traveling soon.



Deborah Brailey (was Debbie Coon)

dbrailey1951@aol.com

Not much has been happening for me in the last year. My granddaughter graduates from college this summer. I'm going to travel down to Kentucky to see my daughter and grandkids to celebrate her achievement. I'm also hoping to visit my sister in Wheeling, IL in the fall so I'm getting out more. Working on my weight loss right now. Down almost 25 lbs. with about 35 to go. One day at a time!!



Richard Reagan

richard_reagan@hotmail.com

The state of Illinois has an easy to use website for abandoned/unclaimed property. The website is icash.illinoistreasurer.gov. It is amazing how much stuff the state of Illinois is holding onto. You may not be listed but I'll bet you will know someone on the list.



Carol Mitchell (was Suzanne)

bob@westerntree.com

I attended the 50th class reunion in October 2019 wanting to see who would be there and what they would look like after 50 years. Old. Everyone was old. More than one friend told me that they would NEVER go to their 50th reunion and that I must be very brave.

I connected with my high school social group and, more than that, met classmates who were virtual strangers back in the day. Everyone I spoke with had something interesting to say about themselves and I found common interests in every conversation.

George Orwell said, "At 50, everyone has the face he deserves." Albert Schweitzer, a bit more generously, said that we get the face we deserve at age 60. Unless you have an aging portrait in your attic like Dorian Gray, by 70 you have lived through many experiences. I saw the beautiful people from the Class of '69 with the illnesses, injuries, and insults that 50 years can insinuate. And we showed up with those experiences on our faces.

I spent some reflective time in the room with the In Memoriam display. Those classmates joined us in spirit. There were several of them that I was hoping to talk to and was disappointed that they weren't there in person. At the next reunion, that display will be larger than in 2019, which brings me to my point in this newsletter submission.

We have all been on a hero's journey and we are all the heroes in the stories of our lives. We have celebrated birthdays, anniversaries, the births of our children and grandchildren, promotions at work and our retirements. We have overcome too many adversities to name. Most of us have buried our parents, a few friends and, in some cases, our children. Yes, we were brave to meet up after 50 years with our frayed suits of armor and battle scars. Heroes always return home.

Thank you to those people who organized our 50th and to those who continue to track our whereabouts and keep us in communication. I hope to see you at our next reunion, if there is one.



Bob Hawkins

bob@westerntree.com

[Ed.: Bob's family from last year's Christmas card.]



Jill Crane (was Jill Ruschli)

jilcrane@aol.com

I've been working on a book for History Press over the past 18 months. "Glenview Prohibition: Bootleggers and Boondoggles" comes out in September and describes Glenview and parts of the north shore during, you guessed it - Prohibition.

The first ten years of this dry time resulted in the lucrative opening of over 30 restaurants, nightclubs, and saloons in Glenview. By the late 1920s the gangs looked to take over the liquor sales. Specifically targeted was one neighborhood beer maker, Matt Hoffman, who supplied most of Glenview. Sadly Hoffman was shot to death in Hackney's on Harms in 1931.

Histories of the Hackneys Restaurants, Meier's Tavern and Grandpa's are explained, as well as Villa Venice and Garden of Allah, and other small obscure places that even the Glenview History Center didn't know about. Other tidbits describe the early roadhouses that served travelers and even a paragraph on the stagecoach that ran along Milwaukee Road.

The book also explains why the towns along the lake remained dry until 1972, and the eradication of Gross Point, a small town that used to run along Ridge Road by St. Joseph's Church in what is now Wilmette.

The book ends with the election of FDR and his WPA policies which resulted in the building of Roosevelt Pool. Did you know Roosevelt pool originally had a sand deck and was called "The Beach by the Lake?" It is also the only NRA round pool, still in existence on a continual basis.

Obviously I'm excited about this and hope my historically oriented classmates are too. Next year another one of my books comes out by the same publisher. The title isn't set yet, but the story is about Curtiss-Reynolds Airfield which was the forerunner of the Glenview Naval Air Station and was to have been the premier airport in the Chicago area. The reason it didn't? The 1929 crash caused investors to lose their money, nine days after the airport opened.



[Ed.: Roosevelt pool.]

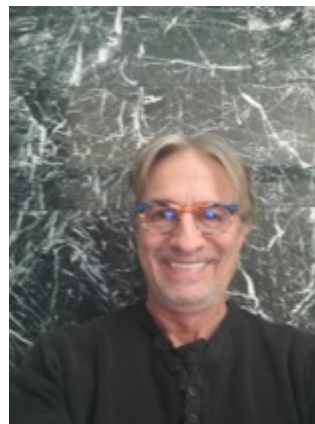


Phil Levy

phillevy100@aol.com

Hey Hey,

Greetings to all my old and new friends and all the alumnae that I can connect with in the vast years ahead of us all. I was wondering if I could make the deadline for this issue, considering it is Tax week and Semana Santa and whatever the hell else it might be. But in the end, I just had to say, Si, como no?"....Well why not? This expression has dominated with me in small ways and grand ways lately. It is too easy to find the million reasons to not do what comes into your mind or falls in your path. Opportunities don't always wait around for extra decades for us to go from Oh, heck, I don't know, I'm not sure, etc. to Okay, I'm in....bring it!



Over a year ago, I came up with a concept, a vague outline of dots, where you could kind of see what it could be if you turned sideways and squinted. Like my wild-kingdom cousins, the moray eel, when I sink my teeth into something, it doesn't often get away....without scars and scabs. The idea was to make like the Hemmingways, Fitzgeralds, Picasso, Gertrude Stein, Ezra Pound, James Joyce, Henry Miller.....leave America in the rear view mirror and jump into the unknown, for Paris. While Paris for many reasons was the compelling destination for these artists, writers and passionate ones to seek the Bohemian promise and artistic inspiration in the 1920's; I chose a different flavor....to adopt España or have it adopt me or both. A hundred years later, I have made this big choice and moved it from the sketchpad into visible, tangible reality.

A year of planning, research, packing, selling my home in Scottsdale and buying a home in the Costa del Sol, now seems incredibly worthwhile. Each day I am very aware of the blessings and opportunities that have been bestowed to do this and to be enjoying what has turned out to be at least as amazing as my wildest dreams. It has been only one month since landing on this peninsula, two weeks in an Airbnb on the beach and two weeks in the new house. Each brought a different perspective; the beach house looking up to the mountains of Axarquía and now the home looking outwards from my mountain perch, towards the sea and the pueblos, 2000 feet below.

In Scottsdale, I had a sense of pride in the discipline, more or , less, of keeping to the deprivations of my diet, with a view towards a trimmer waistline and less cholesterol....at some point. Here, the food is so compelling that I have forgotten even how to spell the word discipline. My hope is that after a "vacation" from the old rules, that a balance is reached that permits a reasonable amount of Spanish breads and Tortilla Espanola and its potato delights.

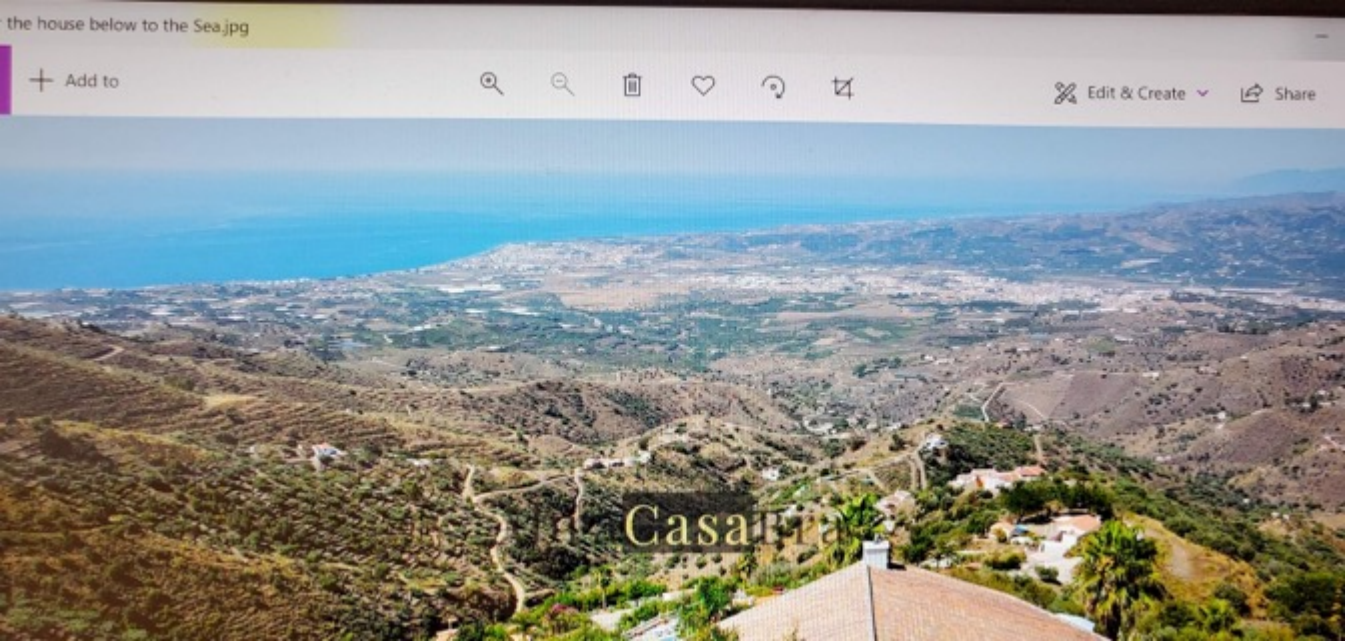
While Spain is known throughout Europe to have the best weather, it was raining almost every day here for a while; but March is a month of transition and many places in the world have one flavor or other of unpredictable, damp, chilly weather as the spring struggles its way out

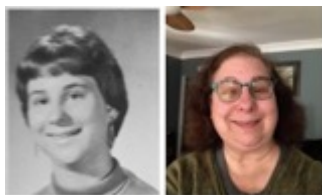
of the winter womb. I had to rename the Costa del Sol to La Costa Partialmente. Soleada. It is ironic that at Glenbrook in sophomore year when at 15, I went on that great trip to spend a month in Spain with my Spanish class, I had no vision or the foresight that 55 years later, the circle would return and I would come here to live.

Friends and family are now about 6,000 miles away and those in Arizona are 9 hours behind me. Many receive messages from me at 2 o'clock in the morning for them. I hope they put their phones on mute. A grand choice like this is accompanied by the sadness of distance from the loved ones. The last couple years of us being forced to cling to the interiors of our homes and a narrowed scope of daily life. This normalized communication by the many tools of virtual get-togethers. So this is similar, we are now familiar and comfortable bonding and connecting on Skype and Zoom and all the other platforms. What is very big in Europe and around the world is "WhatsApp." This platform provides for free voice and video calling all over the world, sending large files, dense pictures and videos and a seamless coordination of all of it with your phone, tablet and computer devices. I encourage any of you who would like to chat to connect with me on WhatsApp. Just add me to your contact list and try to connect via my phone 1 815 276 7644. My email is also the same at phillevy100@aol.com.

So as we say for now, CHAO.....







Sharon Michalove (was Sharon Grodsky)

sdmichalove@gmail.com

Life has been busy here in Rogers Park. Right now I am getting ready to attend an in-person writing conference in the Loop at the end of the month and will participate as a signing author. Fingers crossed for a few book sales. *At First Sight* was nominated for a 2022 [InD'tale Magazine RONE award](#) in suspense/thriller. Pretty exciting for a first book.

Speaking of books, the second book, *At the Crossroads*, will be released May 25, which would have been our 47th wedding anniversary. *Dead in the Alley*, a traditional mystery, will be released on August 10. I will also have some audiobooks coming out this year.

On the travel front, I will be going to Boston in May, the [Writers' Police Academy](#) in Appleton/Green Bay in early June, [Capital Reef National Park](#) in late June, and Minneapolis in September. My trip to Antarctica was rescheduled to 2023.

Other than writing, I have been going to the opera, plays, and trying out new restaurants as things reopen.

At First Sight (ebook)

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B097CJDZ9Q/ref=dbs_a_def_rwt_hsch_vapi_tkin_p1_i0

At First Sight (paperback, Amazon)

https://www.amazon.com/At-First-Sight-Security-Unlimited/dp/1736918702/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=

At First Sight (paperback, Barnes and Noble)

<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/at-first-sight-sharon-d-michalove/1140047370?ean=9781736918708>



Kathie Magness (was McKiernan)

mkmagness@comcast.net

Things have been pretty quiet for us since my last update. Thankfully, we've remained healthy and have gotten our second Covid booster.

We did go to our vacation home in Alberta on Christmas Day and ended up staying for 2 months due to the Omicron spike. We had never been there for that long a period of time in

winter (why would a Texan do that??), but we had a wonderful time. Weather was -26 for the first week but then quite moderate. We hiked, snowshoed and spent time in the snow with our new puppy, Sadie (a petite Goldendoodle).

While away, I taught my Ladies Tuesday Bible Study on the Parables of Jesus remotely. When we returned, I began a 6 week series on James in our home church in Houston. Milton has continued to visit the homeless in one of Houston's large city parks, feeding them a hot meal 2-3 times a week. He also provides them other needed supplies: sleeping bags, hats, gloves, socks, shoes, etc.

The Cheerleader Reunion, twice postponed is now scheduled for early August.

We plan to spend most of the summer in Alberta, will return briefly to Houston and then in September, leave to spend a month in Italy in celebration of my 70th birthday (belated) and our 25th wedding anniversary. We'll be visiting the sites we have not already seen in Milan, Lake Como, Santa Margherita, Cinque Terra, Tuscany, Rome, Positano and finally, Sicily. Any travel tips would be most welcome. We've not been to Italy in over 15 years.

I look forward to reading your updates so please send them in to Rick. And thanks, Rick, for keeping us all connected.

Blessings to all until the next update or reunion!!



Dick Russell

rrussell5951@yahoo.com

Hello GBS '69 classmates:

First, I certainly apologize for this VERY tardy **Thank You** to the 50th reunion crew for the kind and uplifting get well card complete with signatures. This was so thoughtful and so appreciated and it certainly lifted my spirits. You can be assured that I would have much rather been at the reunion than doing what I was doing at that time. I have a special thanks to Kathie (McKiernan) Magness for getting it to me. The notes and summary indicate that everyone had a great time. That is super.

As for me..... since October of 2019 I continue to be treated for the Liver Cancer and then in Sept of 2020 I took a trip to Mayo Clinic in MN where their sophisticated Nuclear Scan showed a 'bad' spot on my pancreas. The biopsy 9/28/2020 confirmed that I did in fact have Pancreatic Cancer as well. So 12/15/2020 I was operated on for this and left the hospital on the 29th of Dec. Nothing like being in the hospital over Christmas. But that is where I needed to be at the time. This was followed by some harsh Chemo. I did figure out how to lose 98 lbs. quickly. Not a recommended weight loss program though!!! The bottom line now is that The Lord has been sooo good to me. A scan in October of 2021 showed that there is currently no sign of Cancer. This is the first time in many years that I have entered the New Year cancer-free!! HE has seen me through 5 bouts of Cancer. Score- GOD-5; Cancer-0!! I still undergo

maintenance chemo treatment for the Liver every 28 days. On April Fools' Day this year I had treatment number 55.

This has led to being contacted by a Christian PR and Publishing House on the east coast to write a book about the journey. They had heard about what's taken place over the past decade and think that it might be an inspiration to others that Cancer is not an automatic death sentence. If it will help just one patient or family..... well then, I will be thrilled.

Of course, one of the biggest blessings from this survival is the fact that I can now see my boys and their families more and I am now going to grandkids basketball and volleyball games. Oldest son, Scott is only about 4 hrs. away near Memphis as he has been with FedEx for about 15 years. Next oldest son, Chris is only about 1 hr. away in, get this, Russellville, AR where he is Sr Pastor of 2nd Baptist Church. Youngest son, Nathaniel is even closer as he moved into my house when I got sick to help and he has gone above and beyond. With the COVID-19 pandemic, and my immune system knocked down...my Oncologist had me on a short leash. Nathaniel wouldn't let me go anywhere the Dr. didn't approve first. These days I feel pretty good most of the time. Although I have not really been working since, I got home from the pancreatic surgery, I have been doing some speaking and some volunteer work is on the horizon.

Seems like more than enough for now, so I'll close. Classmates, thanks again for the wonderful card and all the kind wishes and prayers. The future looks so bright, and I pray that there is a Class of '69 Reunion in it for me!! Blessings to all.



Tom Beckmann

tnbeckmann@aol.com

So, what have I been up to?

First thing is that Carol and I have spent the past two winters in southwest Florida, to escape both the Chicago weather that a number of us endured for too many years and the fear/anxiety/depression/polarization that has been so prevalent, especially in northeast Illinois, since 2020. The weather and quality of life are so much better in the Sunshine State. We still have our house in Glenview but I'm not sure how long that will continue.

I am so thankful that we were able to have our reunion. I think of the other classes, especially 1970, that could not have, or that had to scale down, their celebrations because no one knew what the situation would be and therefore couldn't make the necessary commitments. Since the reunion, I have reestablished contacts with some people I knew well at South but had drifted apart. In the last couple of months, I have been able to get together in person with Rick Reuter and Jim Hagen and their wives while they were in Florida from Michigan and Colorado, respectively.

On a personal level, I just returned from a week of hiking five national parks in Arizona and southern Utah – a 70th birthday present from my daughter, who gave up her spring break from teaching to accompany me. This was our third daddy/daughter road trip and was a great one, hitting a number of items on my bucket list. If you've never been to the area, put it on your list. It accommodates all levels of visitors, from toddlers to 70+ year-olds.

Thank you again to all the reunion organizers and everyone who attended! And thanks to Rick for keeping the momentum going.



Jonathan Wallace

studio2846@gmail.com

[Ed.: Jonathan's painting:
"The Weightiness of Being" oil on canvas, 2021]





Bev Rautenberg

brautenberg@hotmail.com

“The GBS Chocoholics,” [Becky (Felden) Grimm, Bev Rautenberg, Carol (Swenson) Rose, and Jan Topercer], gathered once again... This time they met at [Hackney’s on Lake](#) to celebrate Carol’s ‘Septuagenarian Birthday!’ Becky brought their favorite [Portillo’s Chocolate Cake](#), Bev brought the Birthday candles, plates and napkins, and Carol brought herself and her new dog “Whiskey,” all the way from Michigan to meet us! (Jan wasn’t able to meet us this time, but she will be coming to town in a few weeks!!!)



Beverly Rautenberg’s Artwork is now represented by
 MU Gallery
 1541 West Chicago Avenue
 Chicago, Illinois 60642
 Phone: 224.297.4787.
 To view her Available Works, go to:
<http://muartgallery.com/>

She will be having a Solo Exhibition in September (more details to follow). Her Work will also be included in an International Painting Exhibition at La Grange Gallery in Cernay-Lès-Reims, FRANCE, June 4 – 26. For more information, go to:
<https://www.ludovicdervillez.com/la-grange-1>.

If you would like to be on her mailing list, to receive her newsletter, please email her at:
BeverlyRautenberg@gmail.com.

And Now, Something to Make Us All Feel a Little Better...

If you get the chance, see the musical *Come From Away*. I'm sure you'll feel better having watched it and I guarantee you'll have even more respect for our neighbors in Canada. Here's a sample: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AW_IeElzPDQ
As the lead actor says at some point, "It's a story about kindness."

It's on Apple tv+, on Broadway, and touring. If you can't see it by any of these means, you can watch the documentary on which it was based:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXbxoy4Mges>

Tickets: <https://comefromaway.com/tickets.php?content=tixtour>



Changes to the Class Website Since the Last Newsletter

Added to *in memoriam*:

Tom Ambler
 Davianne Billmire
 Judith Bohnen
 Mark Browning
 Rick Kolba (obituary added)
 Jackie Mattea
 Sean McGuigan
 Randy Stankus

Changes to the Directory

Penny Albrecht (now Bridges)	LinkedIn link, presumed address and phone number
Rick Bancroft	address, phone number, bio
Sue Barmueller (now McFarlan)	presumed email address
Jan Bemm (now Foulke)	presumed address and phone number
Pat Best	picture
Kathy Binnebose (now Patten)	LinkedIn link
Jan Couturier	Facebook link
Becky Felden (now Grimm)	presumed address
Steve George	photograph and work information
Marti Gorun	photograph
Jeff Gray	email, photograph, Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn links
Pam Gray (now Burns)	email address
Teri Helmreich	spelling correction of last name
Pam Jenkins (now Fig)	new email address
Mary Martin	presumed email address and phone number
Scott MacClure	email address and phone number
Jim Nelli	photograph
Jack Nowak	presumed email address
Deb Owen (now Fortune)	Facebook link
Anita Schechet	presumed address and phone number
Steve Scott	email address and work title
Sue Seitmann (now Dahm)	address and phone number
Chris Tharnstrom	change of occupation
Janette Warner	presumed email address
Phil Whiting	presumed address, phone number, and email address

Other

New photo (#74) added to 50th Reunion Photos and More
 Community Care Ministries added to Helping Others

Helping Refugees from the War in Ukraine

If you've thought about contributing to aid refugees from the war but aren't sure where to give, here's a suggestion; a consortium of 45 different agencies and organizations, covering everything from shelter to food to medicine to relocation, and more.

https://action.publicgood.com/campaign/13ac7e1b-4de6-4f7c-b128-4346f73b9832?title=How%20to%20provide%20aid%20to%20those%20in%20Ukraine&utm_content=http%3A%2F%2Fcms3-mobile-preview.api.cnn.io&utm_medium=button&utm_source=cnn

Free COVID-19 Tests

The CDC is offering free COVID-19 test kits to anyone. All you have to do is provide your name and address. No charge for the tests and no charge for the shipping.

Go to:

<https://www.covid.gov/tests>

Why You Might Want These

As we transition to a less-guarded condition, where fewer people are wearing masks, social distancing is no longer enforced or encouraged, and more people are gathering in larger numbers indoors, these tests will still be useful for those occasions when you want to be especially careful for others; visiting your new grandchildren, elderly parents, or friends/relatives with ill- or compromised-health. In addition, special occasions, like weddings may require all guests to test before attending.

The Effectiveness of Masks

The table on the next page will give you some idea of how effective various kinds of masking are. Keep in mind, too, that this was prepared when Omicron was prevalent; the BA.2 variant, now predominant, is even more transmissible.

Why Cloth Masks Might Not Be Enough as Omicron Spreads

Time it takes to transmit an infectious dose of Covid-19

		PERSON NOT INFECTED IS WEARING			
		Nothing	Cloth mask	Surgical mask	N95
PERSON INFECTED IS WEARING	Nothing	15 min.	20 min.	30 min.	2.5 hours
	Cloth mask	20 min.	27 min.	40 min.	3.3 hours
	Surgical mask	30 min.	40 min.	1 hour	5 hours
	N95	2.5 hours	3.3 hours	5 hours	25 hours

It will take 25 hours for an infectious dose of Covid-19 to transmit between people wearing non-fit-tested N95 respirators. If they're using tightly sealed N95s—where only 1% of particles enter the facepiece—they will have 2,500 hours of protection.

Note: Results published in Spring 2021. The CDC expects the Omicron variant to spread more easily.
Source: ACGIH's Pandemic Response Task Force

Source:

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-10559599/Reminiscing-good-old-times-edge-bad-migraine.html>