

2

3

# DON'T TOUCH THE T-ZONE!

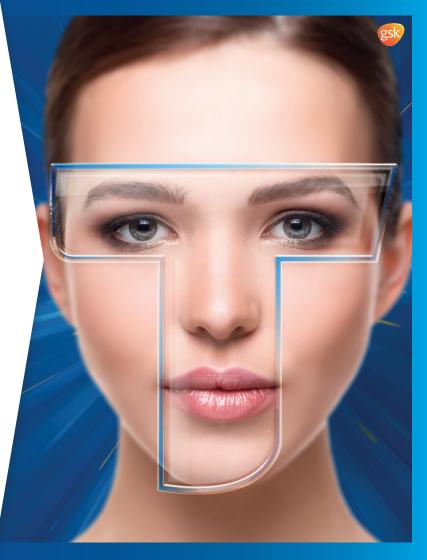
**PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST SEASONAL FLU** 

Flu – a highly contagious viral infection of the respiratory tract<sup>1</sup> – can be spread:

Through direct personal contact<sup>2</sup>

By touching contaminated surfaces<sup>3</sup>

Via moisture droplets in the air<sup>4</sup>



## **CAN YOU BREAK YOUR T-ZONE HABIT?**

2

3

## ONE TOUCH IS ALL IT TAKES

### So, protect yourself<sup>6</sup>:

- > Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- > Wash hands often with soap and water
- Carry and use alcohol-based sanitiser
- > Regularly clean surfaces and objects
- > Avoid touching your facial T-Zone

#### The Role of the T-Zone in Flu Transmission

The flu virus can enter and infect your body through your facial T-Zone - the eyes, nose and mouth areas - via airborne droplets (expelled when someone with the illness coughs, sneezes or talks) or by touching your T-Zone with unwashed hands.<sup>5</sup>

Ask friends, family and colleagues to spot each other, calling **'Face!'** whenever they see hands reaching for the T-Zone.<sup>8</sup>

Lock your own arms in a **folded** position, holding your biceps so your hands can't slip free and you won't touch your face.<sup>8</sup>

Keep your hands occupied! **Find** something else to do, maybe keep fingers and thumbs together, or play with a small ball.<sup>8</sup>



**Face touching** is a frequent, unconscious habit, with research showing some people touch their faces as many as 23 times per hour.<sup>7</sup> That's a lot of opportunities to infect yourself with seasonal flu!

1 World Health Organization (WHO). Influenza Fact Sheet. Available at: https://www.wbint/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/influenza-ceasenal). Last accessed: May 2020. 2 Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Team. Routes of transmission of the influenza virus: scientific evidence-based review. London: Department of Health; 2011. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/statchment\_data/file/15667/ dh\_12532.pdf. Last accessed: June 2020. 3 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Environmental NPIs. Surface Cleaning. Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/environmental/index.html. Last accessed: May 2020. 4 CDC. Catching the Flu. Available at: https://blogs.cdc.gov/noish-science-blog/2013/01/15/catchingtheflu/. Last accessed: June 2020. 5 WebMD. How Does the Flu Spread? Available at: https://www.webmd. com/cold-and-flu/qa/how-is-the-flu-transmitted. Last accessed: May 2020. 6 CDC. Prevent the Flu. Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/actions-prevent-flu/may.html.gov/25637115/. Last accessed: June 2020. 7 Kwok YL, Gralton J, McLaws ML, Face Touching: A Frequent Habit that Has Implications for Hand Hygiene. Am J Infect Control. 2015;43(2):112-114. doi:10.1016/j.ajic.2014.10.015. Available at: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25637115/. Last accessed: June 2020. 8 The Behavioural Insights Team. How to Stop Touching Our Faces in the Wake of the Convavirus. Available at: https://www.biteam/blogs/how-to-stop-touching-our-faces-in-the-wake-of-the-coronavirus/. Last accessed: June 2020.