Evidence Discouraging Compulsory Masking

MASKS: CDC vs. The Evidence

CDC vs. The Evidence. This graphic shows all studies cited by the CDC in "The Science of Masking to Control COVID-19" (16 November 2020) and "Science Brief: Community Use of Cloth Masks to Control the Spread of SARS-CoV-2" (last updated 6 December 2021), along with more than 200 of additional relevant studies. Underlined studies are particularly noteworthy either for content or strength.

Key

Evidence regarding facemask efficacy for inhibiting the spread of airborne or aerosolized pathogens

Side-Effects and/or Other Background evidence relevant to mask use

Studies cited by the CDC

Other Studies

Evidence Favoring Compulsory Masking

Meta-Analysis of RCTs | Systematic Review of RCTs | Randomized Controlled Trials | Non-Randomized Controlled Trials | Systematic Review or Meta-Analysis of Observational and/or Lab Studies; Rapid Review; Technical Report | Prospective Cohort Study | Retrospective Cohort Study | Case-Control Study | Population-based intervention with trend analysis | Serial Cross-sectional studies/surveys | Cross-sectional study/survey | Surveillance | Systematic Review of Qualitative and Laboratory Studies; Literature Review | Series of Case Studies ("Case Series") | Case Study | Animal trials; *In vivo* Mechanistic Studies | *In vitro* Mechanistic Laboratory Studies | Modeling using existing data | Editorial/Expert Opinion Background Information | Modeling using estimated data | Modeling using estimated data | Editorial/Expert Opinion Background Information | Modeling using existing data | *In vitro* Mechanistic Laboratory Studies | Animal trials and *In vivo* Mechanistic studies | Case Study | Series of Case Studies ("Case Series") | Systematic Review of Qualitative and Laboratory Studies; Literature Review | Surveillance | Cross-sectional study/survey | Serial Cross-sectional studies/surveys | Population-based intervention with trend analysis | Case-Control Study | Retrospective Cohort Study | Prospective Cohort Study | Systematic Review or Meta-Analysis of Observational and/or Lab Studies; Rapid Review; Technical Report | Non-Randomized Controlled Trials | Randomized Controlled Trials | Systematic Review of RCTs | Meta-analysis of RCTs

Meta-Analysis | *Experimental* | *Observational* | *Laboratory Experimental* | *Anecdotal, Expert Opinion, and Conjectural* | *Anecdotal, Expert Opinion, and Conjectural* | *Laboratory Experimental* | *Observational* | *Experimental* | *Meta-Analysis*

Stronger Evidence

Weaker Evidence

Weaker Evidence

Stronger Evidence

* Study listed on both sides of the scale because the authors' stated conclusions are negated or reversed upon independent analysis of the same data. *