

7 randomized controlled trials show masks don't stop infection... *but let's mandate them anyways!*

John C. A. Manley | August 12, 2020

With the Ontario government now advising face masks (like most of the WHO-driven world), I requested evidence to justify this new decree from staff at our local hospital. They pointed me towards a report from Ontario Public Health titled *COVID-19 – What We Know So Far About...Wearing Masks in Public*¹.

Here I would finally find proof that masks save lives and make sense.

Alas, I really doubt the staff who recommended the document actually read it.

First of all, the document begins quasi-admitting they have no proof that masks are of any use. It says masks are “likely beneficial,” have “potential functions” and “theoretically” serve as an adequate filter of viral droplets. It even admits that “existing evidence demonstrates that wearing a mask within households after an illness begins is not effective at preventing secondary respiratory infections.”

Not a convincing start.

The same report then cites seven randomized trials designed to evaluate how mask use in the general public might reduce influenza-like illnesses. Surprisingly, all seven studies determined that muzzling yourself with a surgical mask resulted in no significant reduction in influenza-like illnesses. Here's a quick summary:

1. The University of Michigan-School of Public Health found hand washing reduced influenza-like illnesses; while mask wearing made no difference whatsoever.²

2. A German randomized controlled trial found “there was no statistically significant effect” when it came to wearing masks “on secondary infections.”³
3. A 2010 randomized study in The Journal of Infectious Diseases found that neither “face mask use and hand hygiene nor face mask use alone was associated with a significant reduction in the rate of influenza-like illnesses cumulatively.”⁴
4. A randomized controlled trial conducted during the H1N1 pandemic found “Influenza transmission was not reduced by... hand washing and face mask use.”⁵
5. A 19-month randomized controlled trial found a reduction in respiratory infection through educational interventions; but no reduction when adding masks.⁶
6. An RTC of pilgrims sleeping together in tents found no difference in laboratory confirmed influenza cases among those wearing masks and those who were not.⁷
7. A trial in France found that masks produced a 0.4% reduction in secondary infection and “did not identify any trend in the results suggesting effectiveness of face masks.”⁸

I commend the authors of this government report for their honesty; but question the logic of the same government then advising a practice that their own references show produces no “significant reduction in the rate of influenza-like illnesses.” And if masks won't help

with the humble flu, how are they going to be of any use against the mighty coronavirus?

For the moment, I still have to agree with Andreas Voss, a Dutch microbiologist with the World Health Organization. He says that masks are being advised "not because of scientific evidence, but because of political pressure and public opinion."

This is why the Toronto Academic Health Science Network was not able to enforce mandatory mask wearing among staff after an arbitrator ruled: "Evidence that masking as a source [of] control results in any material reduction in transmission was scant, anecdotal, and, in the overall, lacking... [and] is the exact opposite of being reasonable."⁹

About the Author: John C. A. Manley has spent over a decade ghostwriting for medical doctors, as well as naturopaths, chiropractors and Ayurvedic physicians. He publishes the COVID-19(84) Red Pill Briefs – an email-based newsletter dedicated to preventing the governments of the world from using an exaggerated pandemic as an excuse to violate our freedom, health, privacy, livelihood and humanity. He is also writing a novel, *The Brave New Normal: A Dystopian Love Story*. Visit his website at:

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¹ Public Health Ontario. "COVID-19 – What We Know So Far About...Wearing Masks in Public." June 17, 2020. <https://muchadoaboutcorona.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/what-we-know-public-masks-apr-7-2020.pdf>

² Aiello et al.. Facemasks, hand hygiene, and influenza among young adults: a randomized intervention trial. PloS One. 2012;7(1):e29744. <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0029744>

³ Suess T, Remschmidt et al. The role of facemasks and hand hygiene in the prevention of influenza transmission in households: results from a cluster randomised trial; Berlin, Germany, 2009-2011. BMC Infect Dis. 2012;12:26. <https://bmcinfectdis.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1471-2334-12-26>

⁴ Aiello AE et al. Mask use, hand hygiene, and seasonal influenza-like illness among young adults: a randomized intervention trial. J Infect Dis. 2010;201(4):491–8. <https://academic.oup.com/jid/article/201/4/491/861190>

⁵ Simmerman et al. Findings from a household randomized controlled trial of hand washing and face masks to reduce influenza transmission in Bangkok, Thailand. Influenza Other Respir Viruses. 2011;5(4):256-67. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1750-2659.2011.00205.x>

⁶ Larson EL et al.. Impact of nonpharmaceutical interventions on URIs and influenza in crowded, urban households. Public Health Rep. 2010;125(2):178-91. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/003335491012500206>

⁷ Barasheed et al. Pilot randomised controlled trial to test effectiveness of facemasks in preventing influenza-like illness transmission among Australian Hajj pilgrims in 2011. Infect Disord Drug Targets. 2014;14(2):110-6. <https://www.eurekaselect.com/125489/article>

⁸ Canini et al. Surgical mask to prevent influenza transmission in households: a cluster randomized trial. PloS One. 2010;5(11):e13998. <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0013998>

⁹ "IN THE MATTER OF AN ARBITRATION BETWEEN: St. Michael's Hospital and The Ontario Hospital Association and The Ontario Nurses' Association." https://www.ona.org/wp-content/uploads/ona_kaplanarbitrationdecision_vaccinateormask_stmichaelsoha_20180906.pdf