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 150 of the other relevant studies they left out. 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	(light blue box)	(white box)
Other Studies	(tan box)	(light pink box)

Evidence Discouraging Compulsory Masking

Meta-Analysis

Meta-Analysis of RCTs
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Case Study

Laboratory Experimental

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Meta-Analysis

Systematic Review of RCTs

Meta-analysis of RCTs

Stronger Evidence — Weaker Evidence | Weaker Evidence — Stronger Evidence