

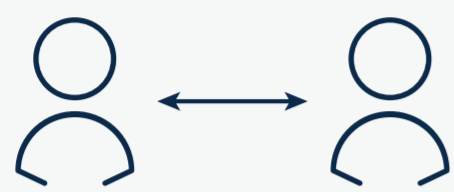
What protects against COVID-19 infection or transmission?

Intervention

Chance of infection or transmission

Without intervention

With intervention



Physical distancing

For every metre further away in distancing, the relative effect might increase

Less than 1m distancing



12.8%

1m or more distancing



2.6%

Certainty of evidence: **Moderate***



Face masks

Without masks or respirators



17.4%

With masks or respirators



3.1%

Certainty of evidence: **Low***



Eye protection

Without eye protection



16.0%

With eye protection



5.5%

Certainty of evidence: **Low***

* See the paper below for full explanations of certainty and why these categories are used. Moderate certainty: we are moderately confident in the effect estimate; the true effect is probably close to the estimate, but it is possibly substantially different. Low certainty: our confidence in the effect estimate is limited; the true effect could be substantially different from the estimate of the effect.

Even when properly used and combined, none of these interventions offers complete protection and other basic protective measures (such as hand hygiene) are essential to reduce transmission

Chu DK, Akl EA, Duda S, et al.
Physical distancing, face masks, and eye protection to prevent person-to-person transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Lancet* 2020. Published online June 1.

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