

QMC Townhall Mtg

IPC on Double Masking, Post-Vaccination Quarantine

2/18/21

BACKGROUND

Masks serve as a simple barrier to reduce COVID 19 transmission when worn over nose and mouth to prevent respiratory droplets from reaching the nose, mouth of others

Protection is bidirectional: protects wearer and those around them

Not a substitute for social distancing

Consistent use: travel, indoors when around non-household members, at home around sick household members

Face shields and eye protection are not substitutes for masking

Effective vs Ineffective Masking in Community Setting

Effective

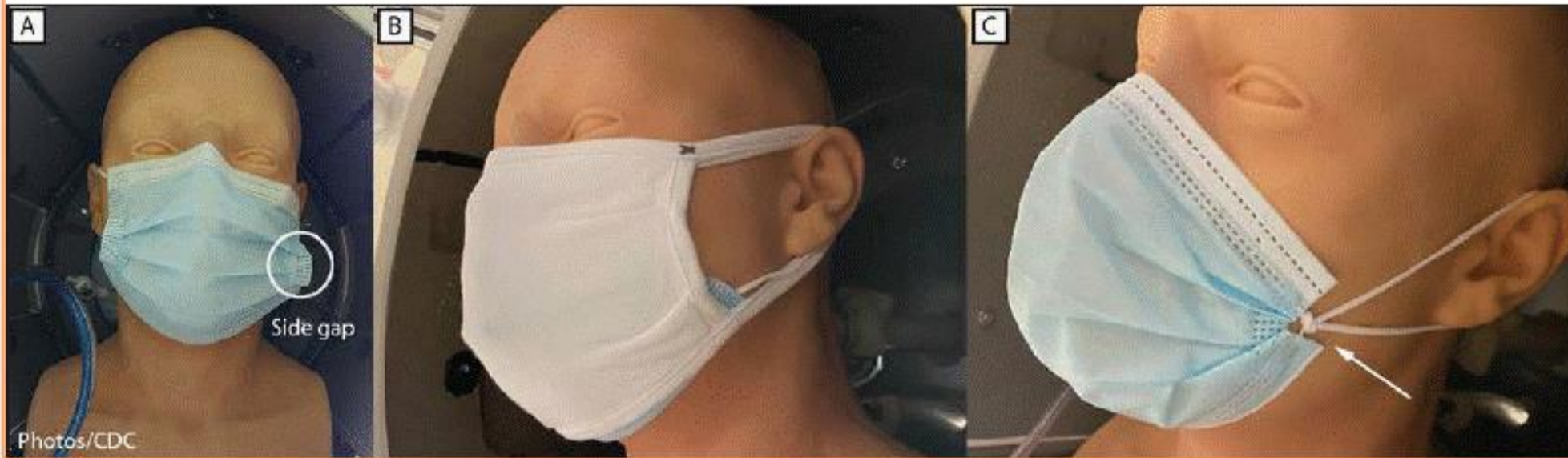
- Medical procedure masks
- Completely cover face and mouth, fit snugly w/o gaps
- Made out of breathable fabric
- Made out of tightly woven fabric
- Have inner filter pockets
- Made with multiple layers

Ineffective

- Improperly fitting: too loose, too tight
- Made out of occlusive material like leather or plastic
- Made out of loosely woven material
- Have exhalation valve or vent
- Made with single layer
- Scarf, gaiter, ski mask

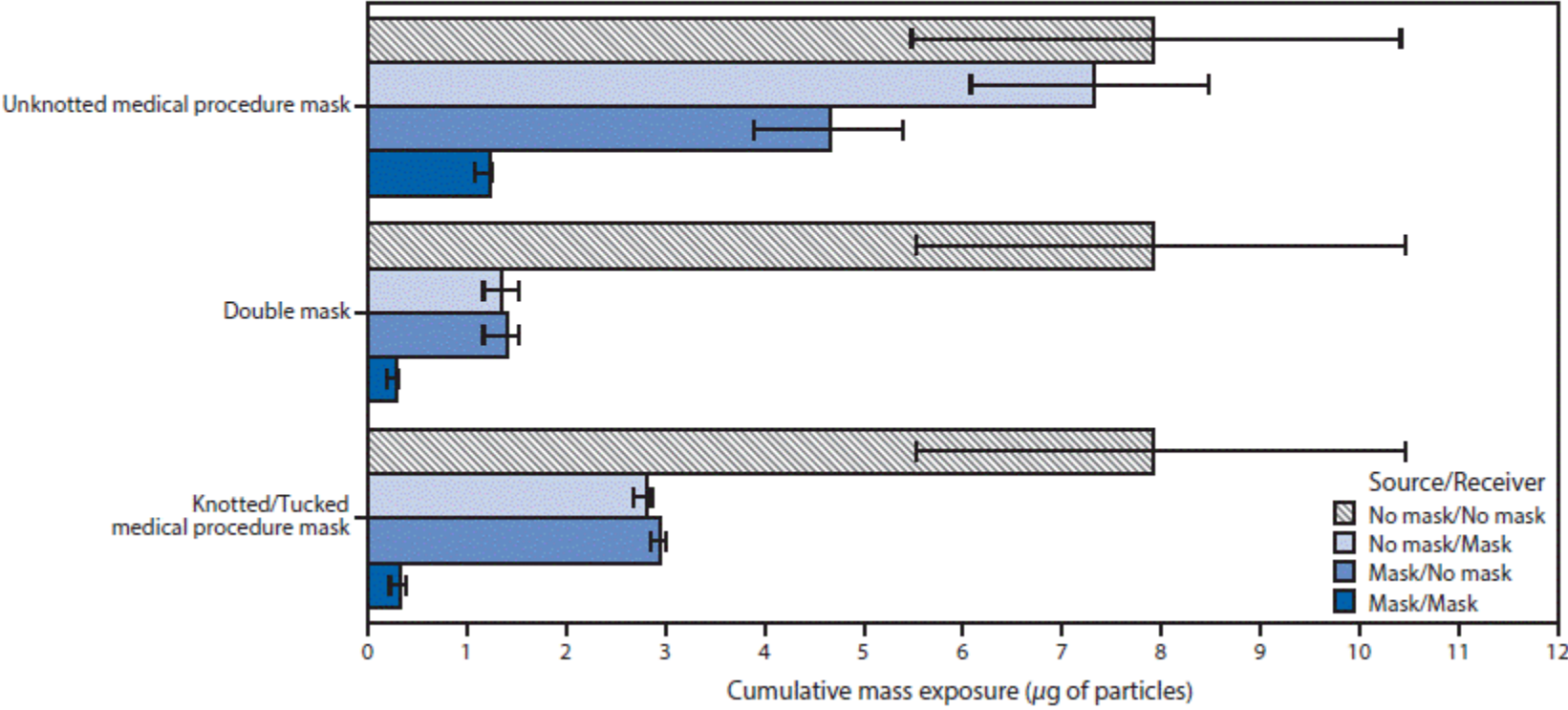
Double Masking of Dummies with Cloth Masks

FIGURE 1. Masks tested, including *A*, unknotted medical procedure mask; *B*, double mask (cloth mask covering medical procedure mask); and *C*, knotted/tucked medical procedure mask



Double Masking of Dummies with Cloth Masks

FIGURE 2. Mean cumulative exposure* for various combinations of no mask, double masks, and unknotted and knotted/tucked medical procedure masks†



QHS Masking Practices for HCPs Providing Clinical Care

- **HCPs shall not wear cloth masks over surgical/procedural or N95 masks**
 - May interfere with N95 filtration capacity
 - Increased potential for contamination during donning and doffing
 - May interfere with fit or positioning of surgical and N95 masks
 - Cannot control quality of personal cloth masks
- Endorse:
 - Completely covering nose and mouth
 - Universal , consistent use
 - Snug fit without gaps
- Healthcare grade surgical/procedural masks available for caregivers, patients and visitors
- N95 available for all COVID -19 care, aerosol-generating procedures and those HCPs who feel extra protection needed
- HCPs providing clinical care shall not wear cloth masks

Post Vaccination Quarantine

- CDC and DOH have waived quarantine for persons following an exposure to source with suspected or confirmed COVID 19 if:
 - fully vaccinated \geq 2 wks. after completing the full series
 - are within 3 mos. following receipt of the last dose
 - remain asymptomatic following the current COVID-19 exposure

Issues with CDC Waiver of Quarantine

- Unknown vaccine effectiveness in preventing transmission (Pfizer)
- Unknown duration of vaccine effectiveness beyond the 3-4 month study duration (Pfizer)
- Unknown vaccine effectiveness in preventing asymptomatic disease (Pfizer)
- Unknown vaccine effectiveness against COVID variants increasingly reported on the Mainland
- What happens after 3 months?

IPC Recommends for Caregiver and Patient Safety:

- Adherence to current CDC quarantine recommendations after exposure to COVID infected persons for HCPs , patients and visitors regardless of vaccination status
- Adherence to our current post-travel quarantine policies
- Continuing review and reconsideration of policies if :
 - new data on vaccine effectiveness, herd immunity
 - staffing shortages