

Review of: "Mask Wearing Behavior and COVID-19: Synthetic Effects of Individualism and Collectivism in Korea"

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Potential competing interests: The author(s) declared that no potential competing interests exist.

The paper addressed a timely and policy-relevant issue in an arguably less studied population with a well-developed theoretical framework. Samples were representative of key demographics and measures were validated. My specific suggestions are:

- 1) please remove causal languages such as "affecting" since it is not an experiment;
- 2) please discuss study limitations, especially threat to internal (cross-sectional design) and external validity (non-probability samples);
- 3) common-variance bias may be a threat to self-reported measures in cross-sectional surveys, and this needs to be tested statistically or discussed as a limitation;
- 4) most confounders adjusted were unobservable psychological variables; key observable health and sociodemographic variables were missing, such as baseline health conditions, income, occupation, or socioeconomic status, marital status and household structure, etc.
- 5) the results were not quite consistent between the two surveys and different age groups and more theoretical explanations needed;
- 6) the recent literature on mask wearing behaviors during COVID-19 is not adequately covered;
- 7) there is a recent surge of COVID-19 cases in Korea, so I would not say it has been successfully controlled so far, although Korea's efforts were commendable.
- 8) How can the findings inform other countries?
- 9) What are the public health implications of your important findings, and what are possible interventions to increase mask wearing?