

Review of: "On Mask Wearing in Environments With and Without a Mask Mandate"

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I am not competent to judge the relevance of the "economic" model presented. From a medical point of view, however, it makes no sense: the only efficiency of the mask in a closed office model during 8 hours is when the mask is worn by the maximum number of people. Nothing else... We have been in a COVID-19 pandemic for barely 3 years with multiple direct and indirect consequences that this theoretical article totally ignores: deaths, hospitalizations, morbidity (sequelae of hospitalizations, Covid Long), work stoppages, school absenteeism, additional costs for the health system, altered access to care, etc.

Not wearing a surgical mask exposes others and oneself to secondary exposure to respiratory viruses. The mask is useful and effective, there is not much else to say about it (its societal benefit is enormous for a derisory cost and an almost total absence of undesirable effects, apart from eczema, acne...)

However, the work sums up M's choice to wear the mask for himself, and N's choice to be a defender of freedom: in reality, the one who defends the freedom of others to live normally is M, while N only defends his individual freedom. They do it voluntarily or not, selfishly or not; but in practice, wearing a surgical mask is an essentially altruistic gesture (besides, if you want to add a "selfish" touch, you wear an N95)! If the article was about "people who don't like to be deprived of their freedom to be naked at work", the question of the optimal theoretical number of hours of nudity would not make much sense...

Otherwise: the first sentence ("We now know that the cause of the severe acute respiratory syndrome or SARS-like illness that later came to be known as Covid-19 was a new coronavirus, in particular, the SARS-CoV-2.

There is an important cause for not wearing a mask: social pressure (in a doctor's surgery where everyone is wearing a mask, being the only one not wearing one encourages putting one on; conversely, in a meeting where no one is wearing a mask, being the only one encourages removing it...). In section 2.1, there is Covid-10 instead of Covid-19.