Review of: "Real-World Efficacy of N95, Surgical, and Cloth Masks in Mitigating SARS-CoV-2 Respiratory Infections: A Comprehensive Comparative Study"

Daniele Contini[1]

1 Italian National Research Council

Potential competing interests: No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper could be of interest for the readers, however, some aspects should be revised and discussed with more precision or more detail.

The point of view is focused on facemask as a protective tool for the individuals wearing them. However, it should be mentioned that this is only an aspect and that the use of facemasks was supported during pandemic because they can protect the others (susceptible individuals) from emissions of infected individuals. This aspect should be mentioned. I suggest to mention the work of Conte et al *Environmental Science and Pollution Research* **volume 29**, pages13905–13916 (2022) that showed some effects of using facemasks on risks in indoors.

In several parts of the paper it is reported that the use of facemsks reduce the contagions, however, how this has been evaluated? For this conclusion, it should be provided a curve of cumulative contagions in the 30 days for no-mask case. In addition, it would also be necessary to estimate the cumulative contagions in the 30 days in the normal situation in the area. I mean using the rest of population as a control. Are the results in the figures here different from the typical trend in the area? If this is missing all the consideration in which the masks are useful to reduce risks are not really demonstrated.

Figures 1, 2, and 3 report the same data already included in Figure 4 so that only this last could be mantained and the others could be removed. In addition, I suggest to put marks on the estimated points of the curves and to remove “best fit” in the caption because there is not any fit. A fit is among a model and a measurement and this is not the case.

Equation 1. If N=1000 it follows C=I. It is really necessary to use an equation for such a simple situation?