

COCHRANE REVIEW: “NO EVIDENCE” MASKS MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE, “FULL STOP.”

A meta-analysis published in January by Oxford University senior associate tutor in epidemiology, Dr. Tom Jefferson and 11 other researchers, seriously calls into question the efficacy of masks in reducing the spread of COVID-19.

The researchers said they “wanted to find out whether physical measures stop or slow the spread of respiratory viruses, from well-controlled studies in which one intervention is compared to another, known as randomized controlled trials.”

They sought out studies “that looked at physical measures to stop people acquiring a respiratory virus infection” and “were interested in how many people in the studies caught a respiratory virus infection, and whether the physical measures had any unwanted effects.”

The study was conducted for Cochrane, described by New York Times columnist Bret Stephens as “the gold standard for its reviews of health care data,” and by Vox as “a major source of high-quality, reputable meta-analyses.”

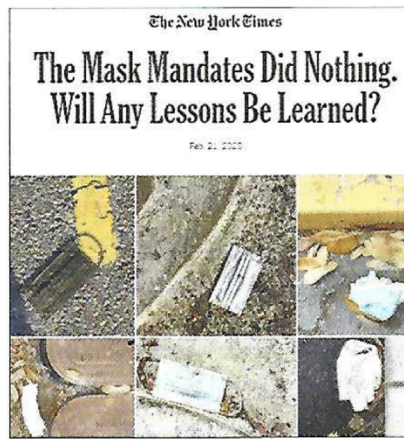
The researchers identified “78 relevant studies” conducted “in low-middle, and high-income countries” during various pandemic, epidemic and non-health emergency periods. They included government and pharmaceutical studies, encompassing 610,872 people, including healthcare workers and the general population.

The researchers assessed the effects of different types of masks, including medical or surgical masks and N95/P2 respirators.

For medical or surgical masks, the researchers found they “may make little to no difference in how people caught a flu-like illness/COVID-like illness.”

Similarly, for N95/P2 respirators, they found the masks “probably [made] little to no difference in how many people have confirmed flu...and may make little to no difference in how many people catch a flu-like illness...or respiratory illness.”

In an interview with Marianne Demasi, PhD, an investigative medical reporter, Jefferson bluntly stated, “There is just no evidence that



[masks] make any difference, full stop.”

Jefferson also condemned the pandemic’s “overnight experts” and criticised the multitude of scientifically baseless health policies.

In his op-ed for the *Times*, Stephens said, “No study — or study of studies — is ever perfect. Science is never absolutely settled,” but “when it comes to the population-level benefits of masking, the verdict is in: Mask mandates were a bust.”

He added: “Those sceptics who were furiously mocked as cranks and occasionally censored as ‘misinformers’ for opposing mandates were right. The mainstream experts and pundits who supported mandates were wrong. In a better world, it would behoove the latter group to acknowledge their error, along with its considerable physical, psychological, pedagogical and political costs.”

“But whatever the reason, mask mandates were a fool’s errand from the start. They may have created a false sense of safety — and this permission to resume semi-normal life. They did almost nothing to advance safety itself. The Cochrane report ought to be the final nail in this particular coffin.”

Author David Zweig, who has contributed to the release of the “Twitter files,” said:

“The remarkable thing here is that the only way the most prestigious data review on community masks — which found no clear evidence of benefit — made it into the paper of record was in an opinion piece. The NYT Science desk did not deem it newsworthy.”

Two points from these revelations.

1) The true function of mask mandates was never about keeping people from getting infected or trans-

mitting the virus but to habituate people to a certain kind of compliance. The fact that children were forced to wear masks in schools — some for years — when children are the least susceptible to dying from the virus indicates a darker agenda at play.

2) The most vulnerable — the elderly -- were fooled into believing a mask would protect them from a virus when, in reality, they and their carers needed to be urged to prioritise other precautions, including social distancing.

How many have needlessly died from such comforting but wrong advice about masks?

Jefferson, in his interview with Demasi, went as far as to state that “overnight experts perpetuat[ed] a ‘fear-demic’.”

“Governments completely failed to do the right thing and demand better evidence. At the beginning of the pandemic, there were some voices who said masks did not work and then suddenly the narrative changed.

“Governments had bad advisors from the very beginning... They were convinced by non-randomised studies, flawed observational studies. A lot of it had to do with appearing as if they were ‘doing something’.”

“Here’s what I think,” exclaimed Jefferson, “Your overnight experts know nothing.” (*Sources: cochrane.org/CD006207/ARI_do-physical-measures-such-hand-washing-or-wearing-masks-stop-or-slow-down-spread-respiratory-viruses; nytimes.com/2023/02/21/opinion/do-mask-mandates-work.html; maryannedemasi.substack.com/p/exclusive-lead-author-of-new-cochrane*)