

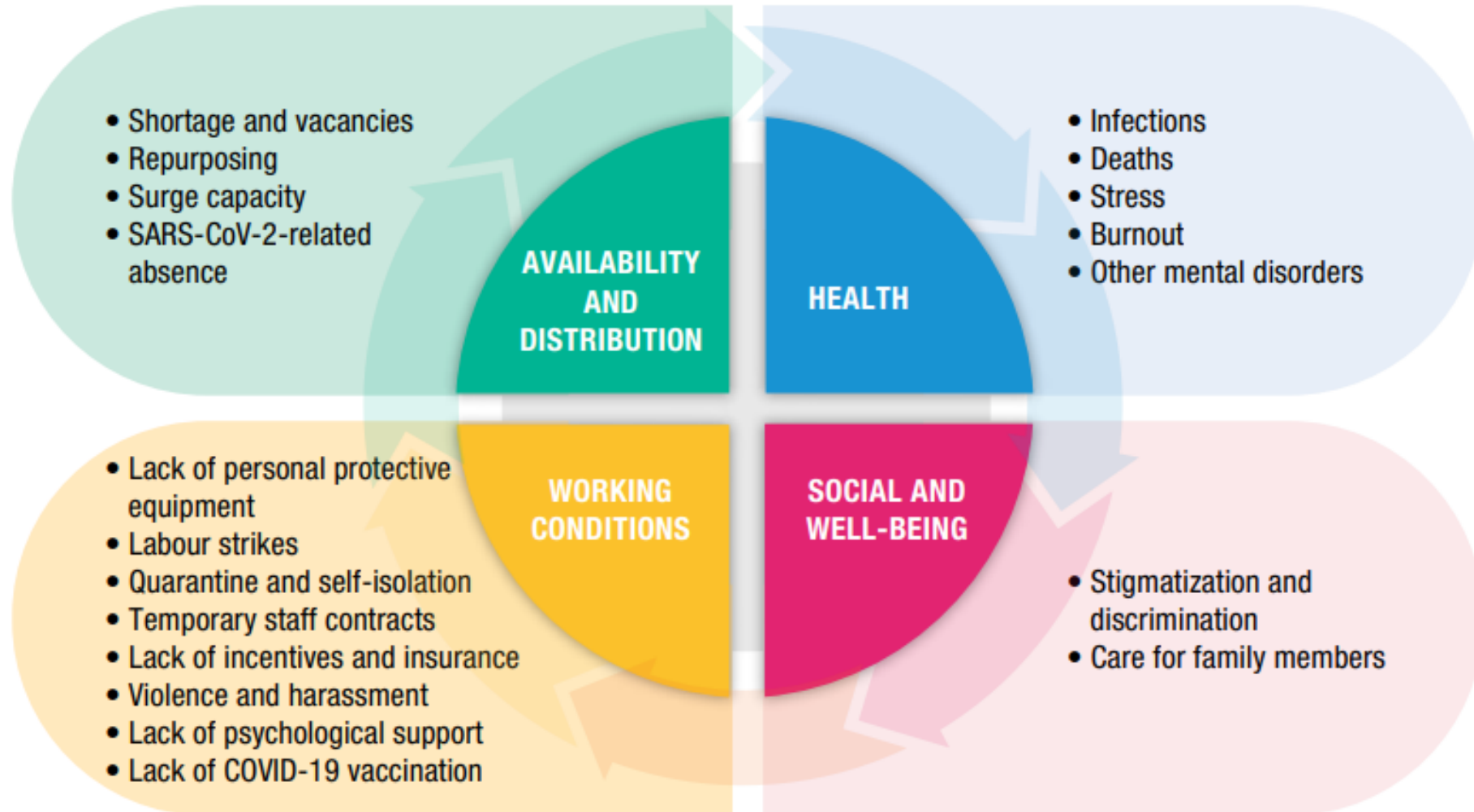
*Vaccinated or non-vaccinated: patients are not
healthcare workers, and the flu is not COVID-19*

Protecting the immunocompromised healthcare worker

Gabriel Birgand

@gbirgand

Multidimensional factors affecting HCWs



Influenza among HCWs

Meta-analysis, 97 influenza seasons
58,245 study participants

Incidence rate n/100 population/ season	HCW	Working adults	IRR
<i>All infections</i>			
Unvaccinated	18.7%	5.4%	3.4
Vaccinated	6.5%	1.2%	5.4
<i>Symptomatic infections (serology)</i>			
Unvaccinated	7.5%	5.1%	1.5
Vaccinated	4.8%	3%	1.6

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Kuster, Plos one, 2011
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0026239

Multicenter prospective cohort 2017 289 HCW from 5 French university hospitals

3 Examinations + serology + PCR

62/278 (22%) HCW positive to influenza

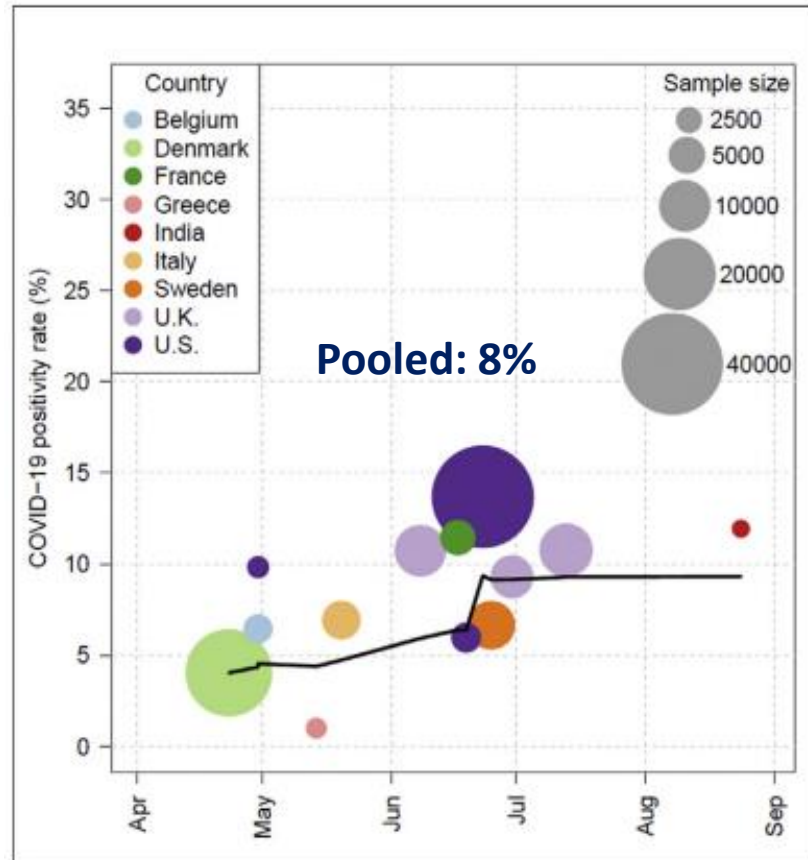
- **46.8% asymptomatic** (Vacc 61% vs 35% others)
- 41.9% paucisymptomatic (Vacc 36% vs 47% others)
- 11.3% symptomatic (Vacc 4% vs 18% others)

**Asymptomatic HCW would be able to
transmit the virus to both patients and colleagues**

Bénet, CID 2021
DOI: 10.1093/cid/ciaa1109

COVID-19 among HCWs

Meta-analysis of 25 prevalence studies
(13 high-quality) among HCWs

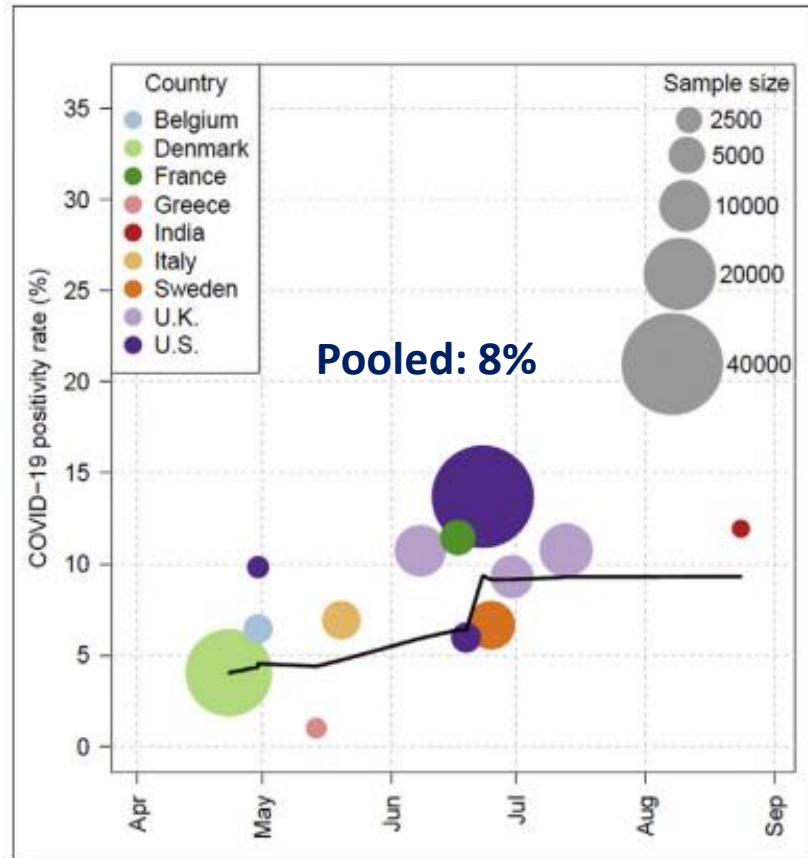


Kayi I et al, Clin Microb Infect 2021

doi: 10.1016/j.cmi.2021.05.036.

COVID-19 among HCWs

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Kayi I et al, Clin Microb Infect 2021

doi: 10.1016/j.cmi.2021.05.036.

Meta-analysis of studies reporting HCW
with PCR-proven Covid-19 infection

17 studies

Covid-19 positive HCW: 12.5% (6.2-23.5)

BUT variability according to:

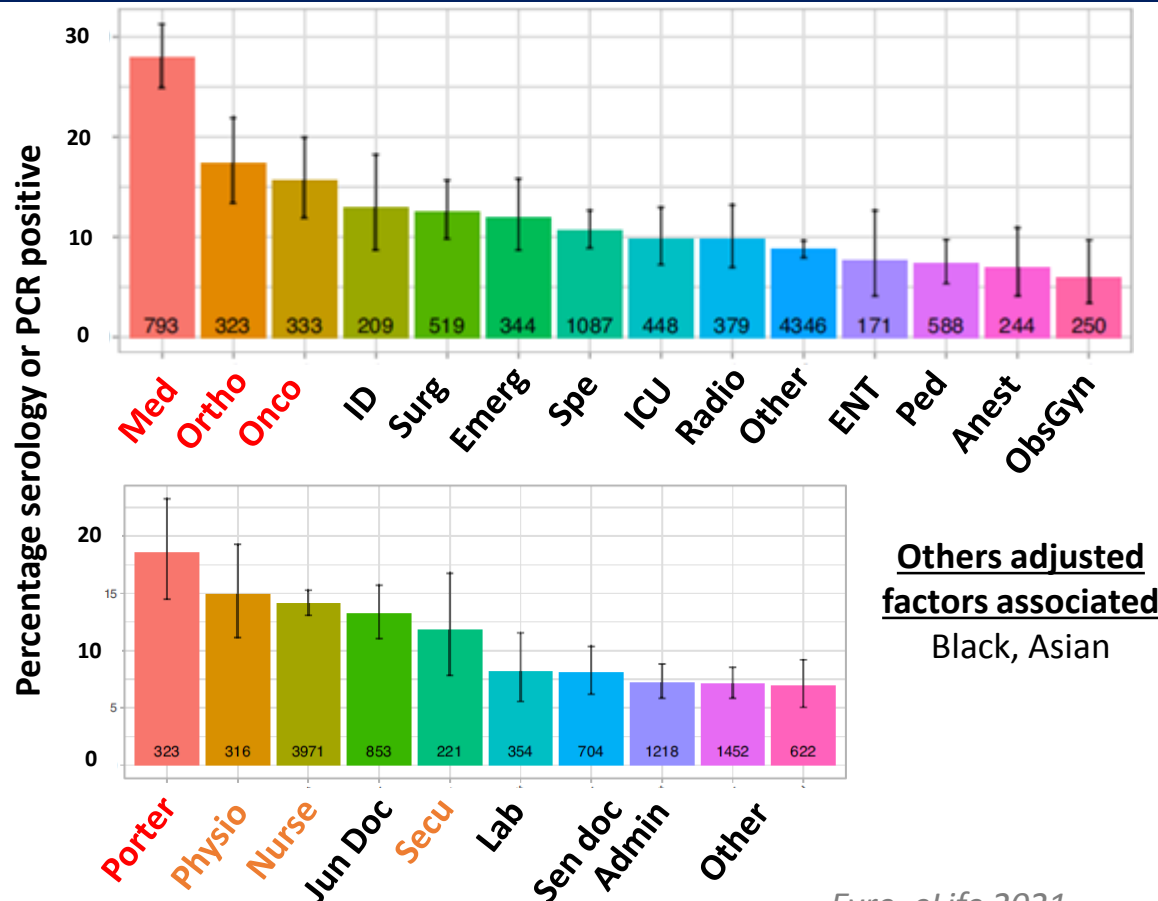
- Individual characteristics (ethnic minor: 9-17%)
- Workplaces setting
- Exposure inside (6-13%), **outside workplaces** (14-32%)
- Testing strategy
- PPE availability/use

Gholami, IJID 2021

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijid.2021.01.013>

COVID-19 risk factors among HCWs

UK teaching hospital
1128/10,034 (11.2%) staff with Covid-19

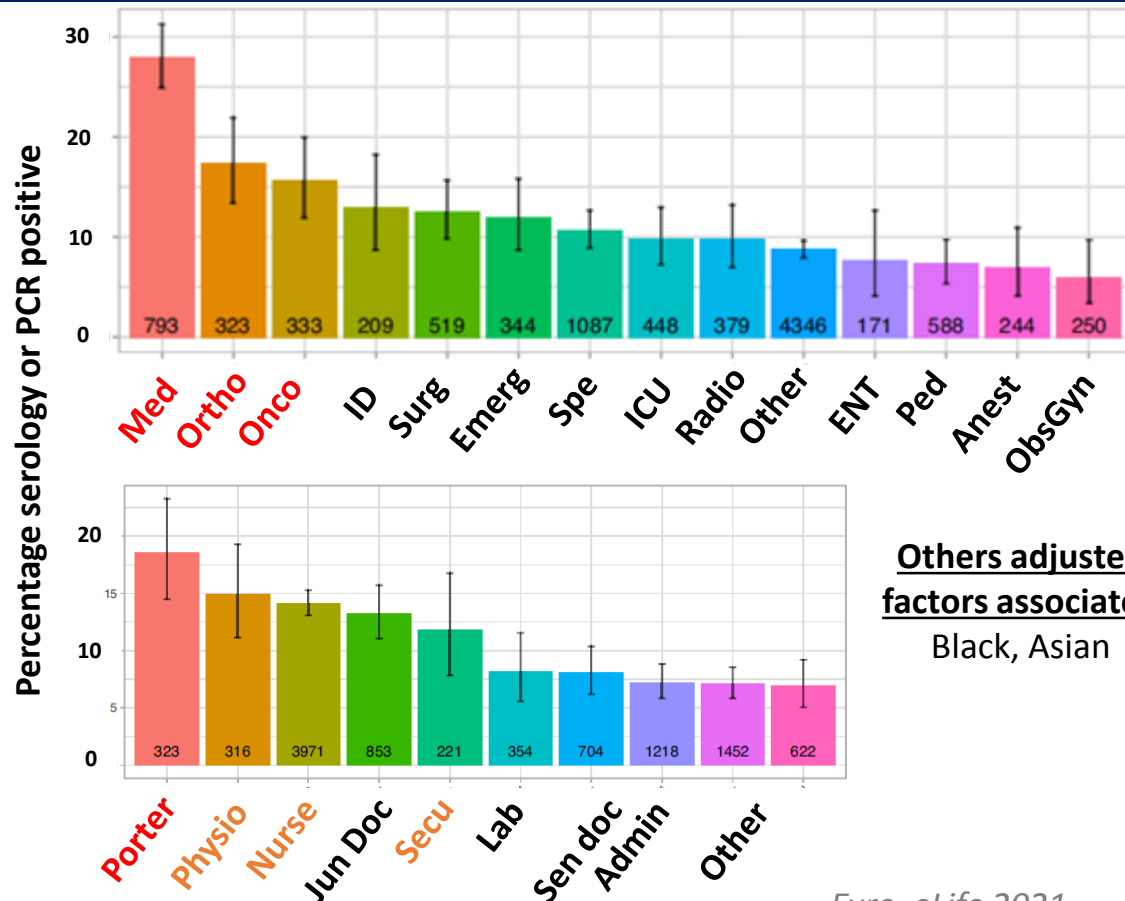


Eyre, eLife 2021

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7554/eLife.60675>

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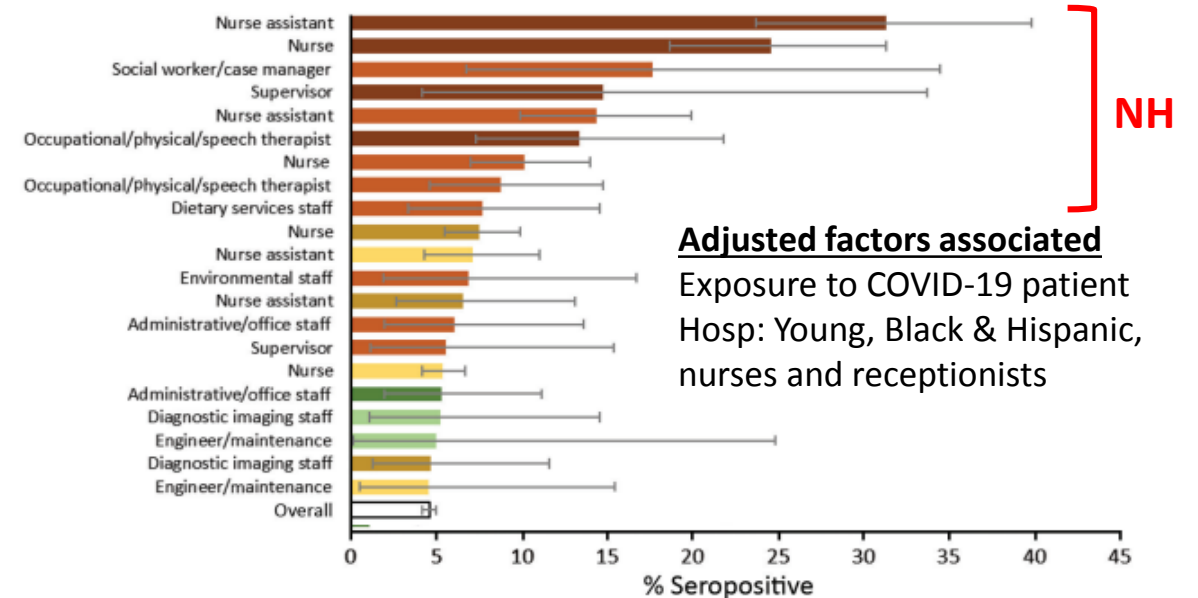
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Eyre, eLife 2021
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Rhode Island US
Serologic survey, July 17–August 28, 2020

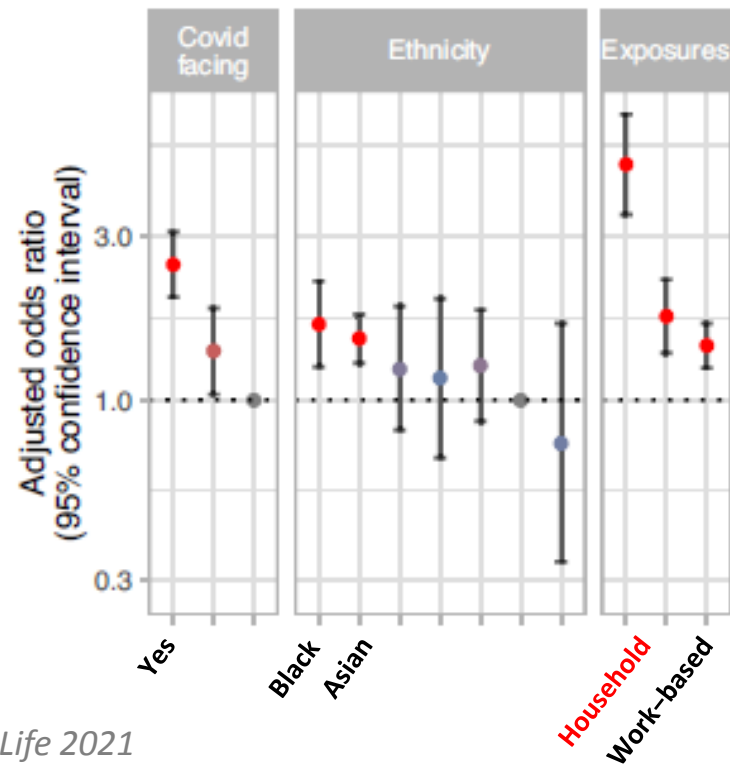
N=9,863 HCWs, Overall: **4.6%**
Hospital: **3.1%**
Nursing home: **13.1%**



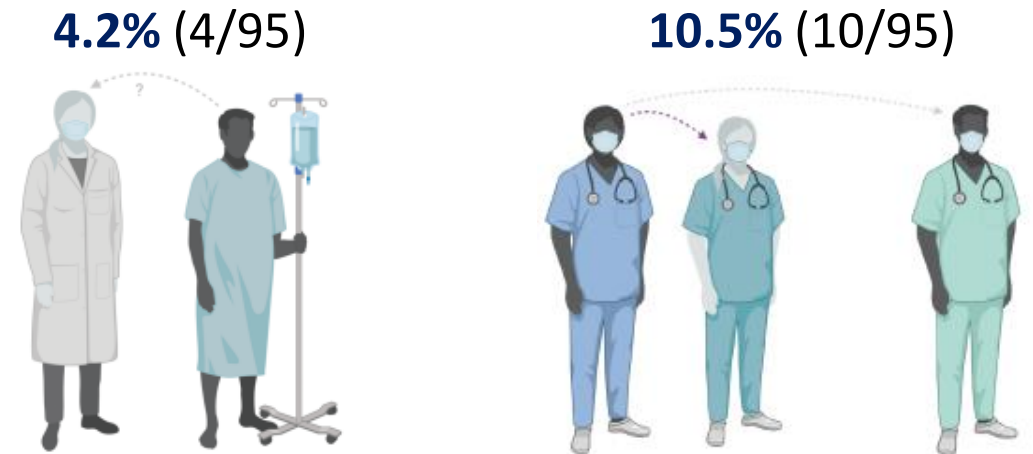
Akinbami, Emerg Inf Dis 2021
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3201/eid2703.204508>

HCWs exposures to SARS-CoV-2

Role of non-occupational exposure



Sources of COVID-19 in US HCWs by NGS



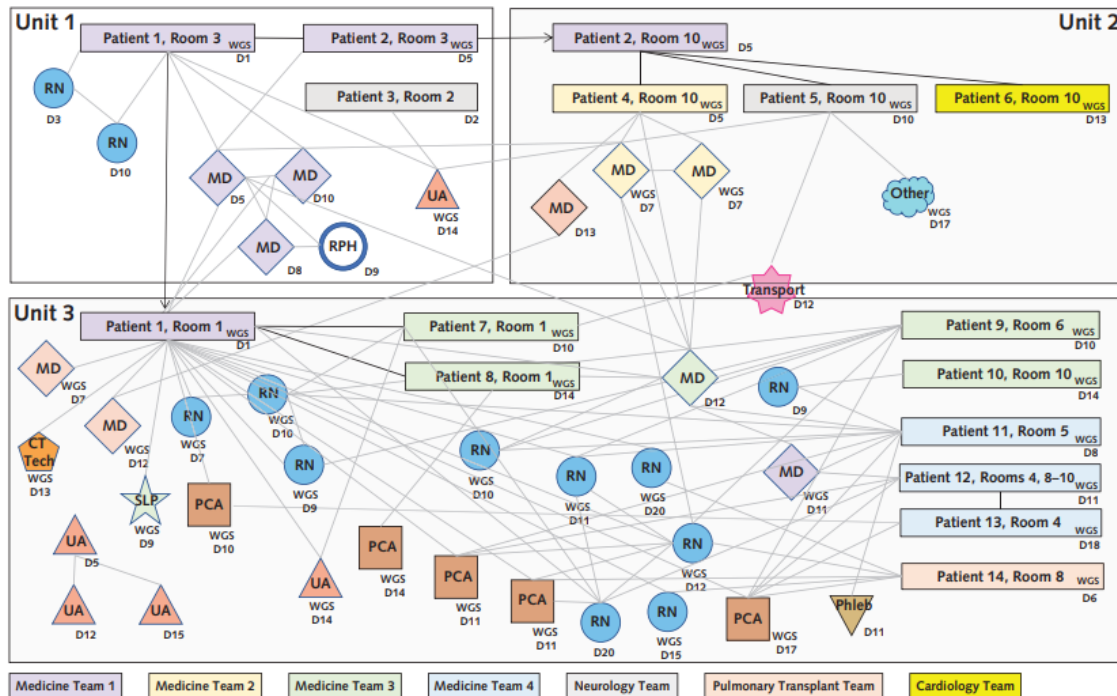
Braun CID 2021

57.9% (55/95) genetically similar to community

The “worst” practices may be outside the healthcare system, in HCWs at higher risk of being contaminated in the community (transport, working during lockdown, socially deprived...)

Risk factors for transmission

- Cluster in 3 units, 14 patients and 38 staff members confirmed by WGS
 - Case-control study : clinical interactions, PPE use, breakroom, workroom practices



Variables	Prevalence Ratio
Nebulization	2.5 (1.5–4.4)
Cumulative exposure time > 15 min	2.3 (1.1–4.5)
Pts short of breath	2.1 (1.2–3.7)
Coughing	1.9 (1.2–2.9)
Interactions with SARS-CoV-2– positive staff in clinical areas	1.4 (1.0–1.9)

Situations at risk of aerosol transmission:
Patient + Care/task + HCW characteristics +
environnement

COVID-19 mortality among HCWs

Region	WHO COVID-19 surveillance data death	Population based estimate	Standardization by sex and age	6.2% of all infections and 0.8% letality	Amnesty International
France	4	6708	2545	2854	63
UK and NI	0	8562	3177	2206	931
Italy	269	3970	1462	2057	407
Germany	0	5809	2112	1778	143
Spain	148	2845	998	1778	92
European	1395	49 374	17 805	26 454	

Lack of transparency in recording and reporting HCW infections and deaths, Need for a better surveillance system

Immunocompromised HCWs

- Immunosuppressive **medications**
- Hematologic **malignancies**
- CAR-T-cell or hematopoietic stem **cell**
- Advanced or untreated **HIV** infection with CD4 cell count <200 cells/microL
- Moderate/severe primary **immunodeficiency**

UK, US	Front-line HCW (n=99795)	General community (n=2035395)
Cancer	0.5%	1.3%
Immunosuppressants	2.5%	3.2%
Chemotherapy or immunotherapy	0.1%	0.3%

Nguyen, Lancet 2020

[https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667\(20\)30164-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(20)30164-X)

Crude number of immunocompromised HCW:

- UK: 35000
- US: 182000

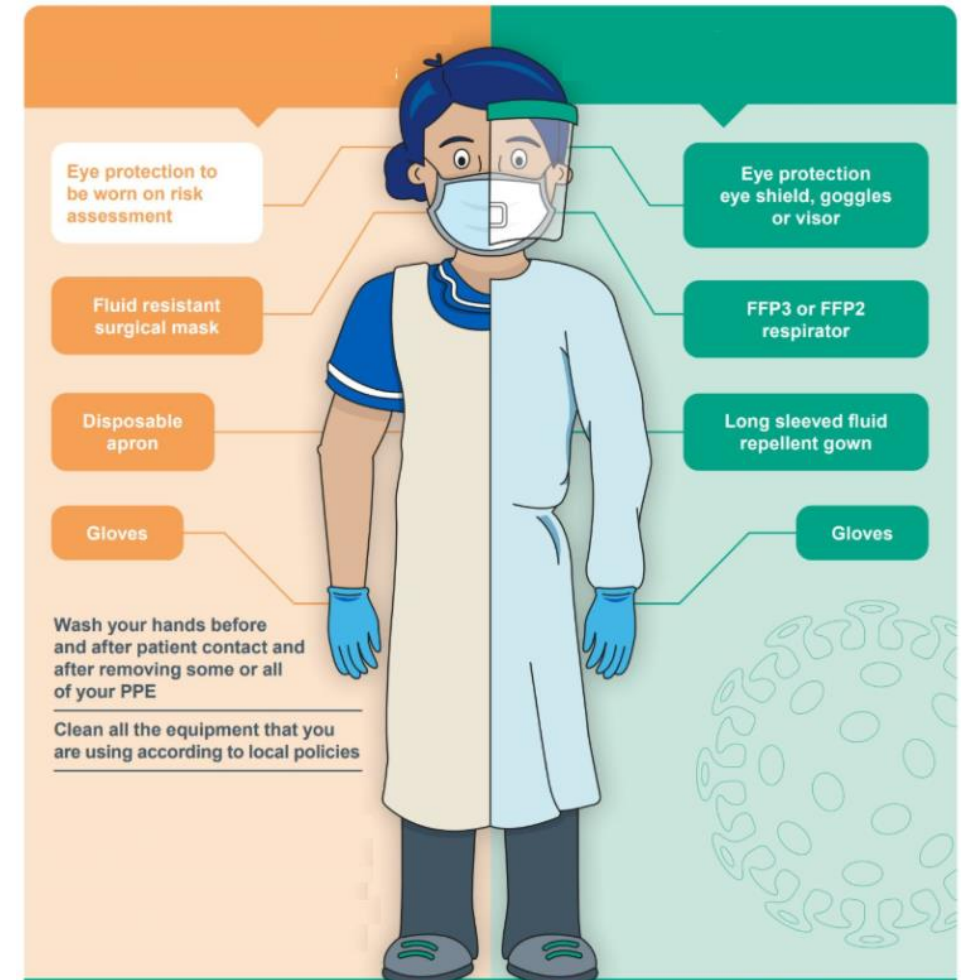
Hospitalized for COVID-19 US 2020	HCWs (n = 127)	Non-HCWs (n = 1663)
Immunocompromised	16 (12.6)	218 (13.1)

Jeong Yun Yang JAMAopen 2021

[doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.35699](https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.35699)

Measures to protect HCWs

- **Personal Protective Equipment**
 - Mask, either N95 or medical
 - Hand hygiene
 - Gown
 - Face shield
 - Physical distancing without mask
- **Eviction, work restriction**
- ~~Awareness to symptoms, systematic and/or targeted screening~~
- **Source control:** masking infected patients
- ~~Ventilation~~



Measures to protect HCWs

Universal masking and Influenza

Only one RCT, 32 HCW wearing vs not wearing surgical mask in Japan 2009

- 2 colds during the study period, NS

Observational Studies	Design	Results
Zhang, 2009	Matched case-control	NS
Chokephaibulkit, 2009	Nested case-control	↗ risk if not masked while exposed
Jaeger, 2009	Retrospective cohort	↘ infection if Mask/N95 during exposure

Measures to protect HCWs

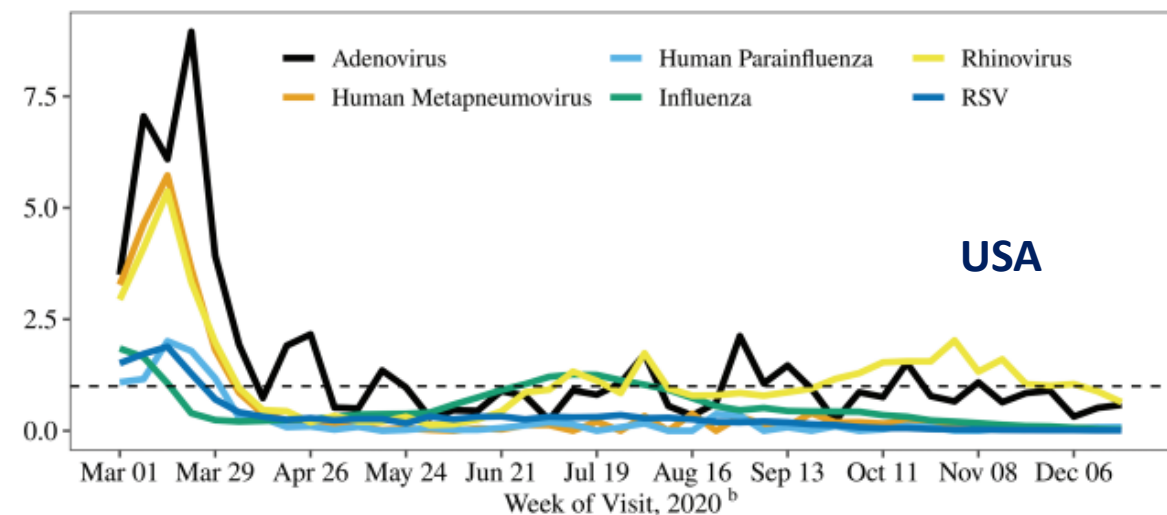
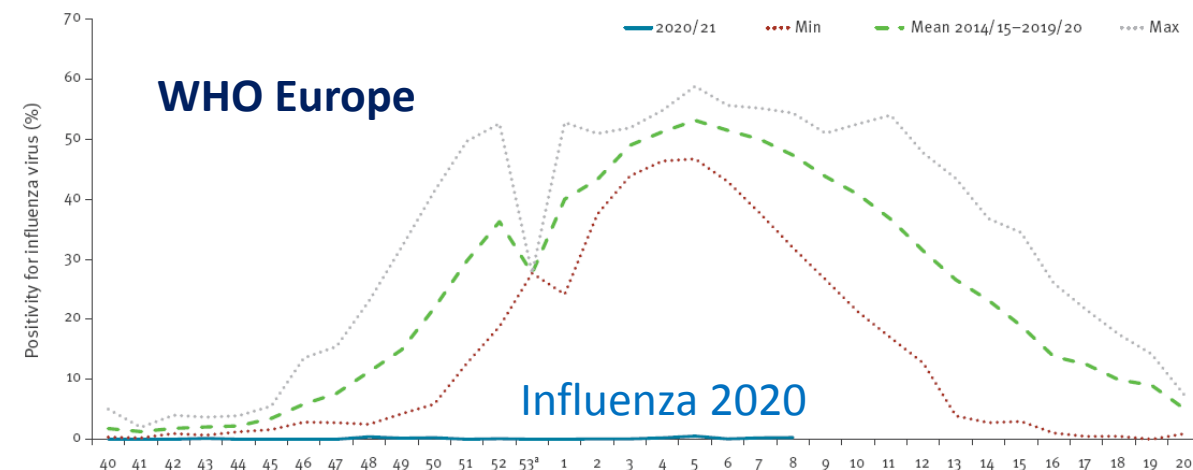
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Jacobs, AJIC, 2009
doi:10.1016/j.ajic.2008.11.002



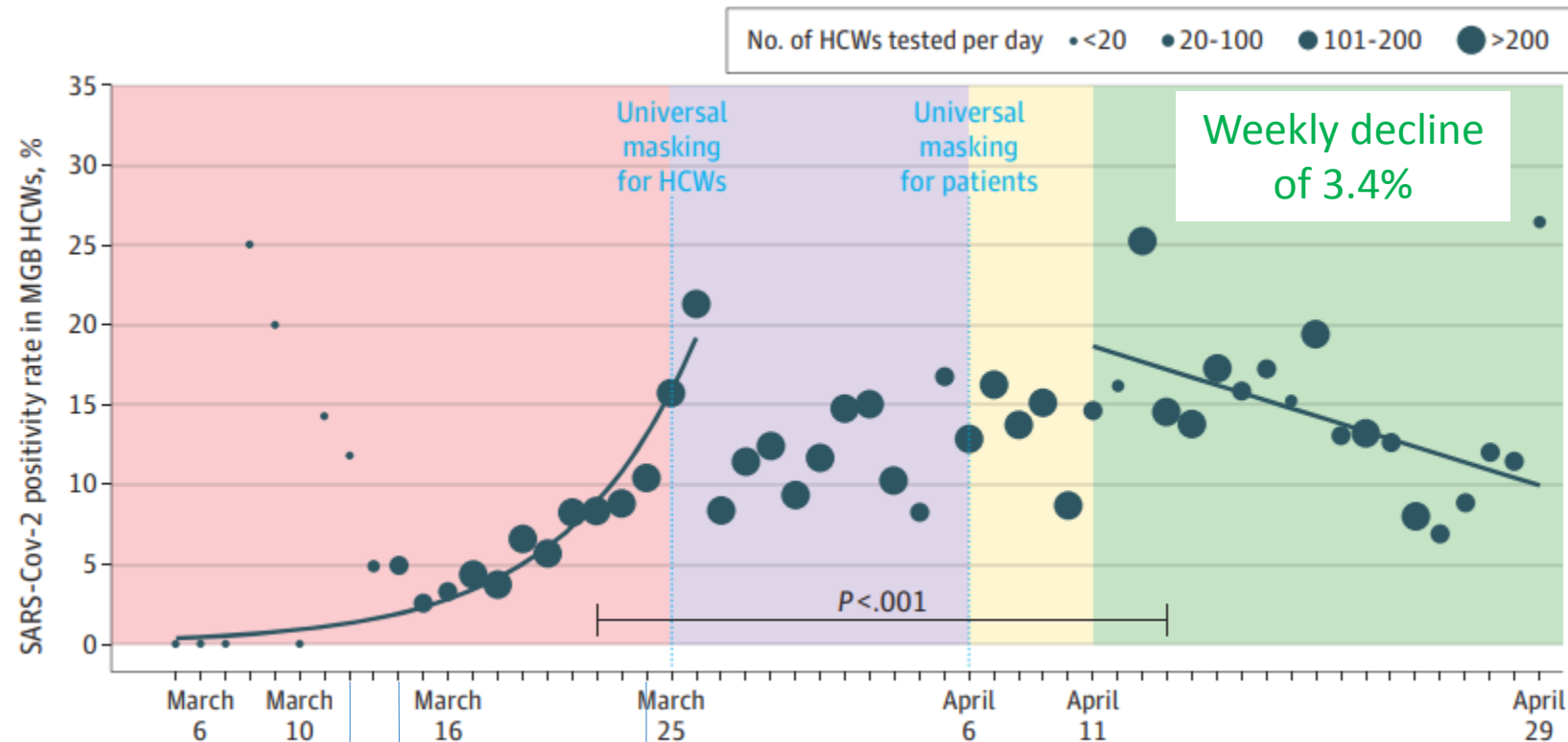
Adlhoch Eurosurv 2021
https://doi.org/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2021.26.11.2100221

Rodgers CID 2021
DOI: 10.1093/cid/ciab311

Measures to protect HCWs

Universal masking and COVID-19

Mass Gen Brigham, US Massachusetts, 12 hospitals, >75 000 employees



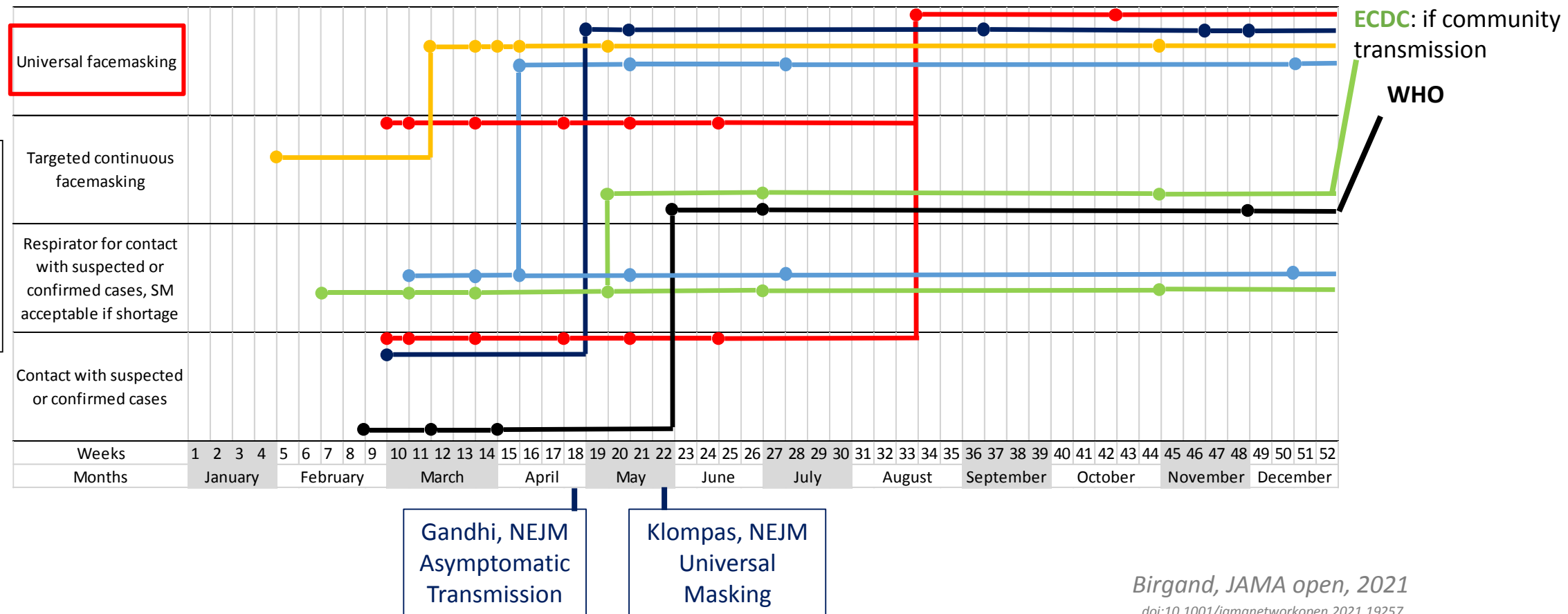
Wang US 2021	↘
Seidelman US 2020	↘
Lan US 2020	↘

Restricts visitors

Stay-at-home orders in Mass

Restricts elective procedures

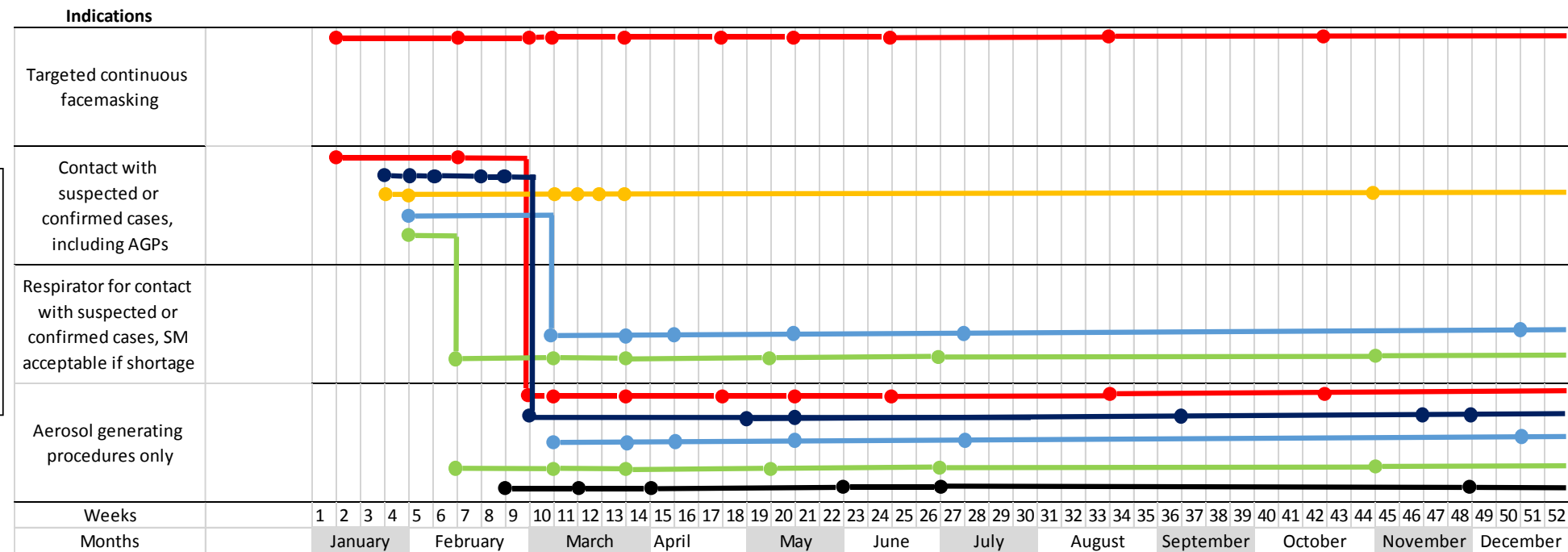
Evolutions of indications for the use of medical facemasks



Measures to protect HCWs

Respirators and COVID-19

Evolutions of indications for the use of respirators



New guideline version according to countries

- England/UK
- France
- Germany
- CDC
- ECDC
- WHO

Bourrouiba, JAMA
Turbulent Gas
Clouds

Birgand, JAMA open, 2021

doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.19257

Recommendations

General agreement:

- Intubation
- Non-invasive ventilation
- CPR
- Airway suctioning
- Bronchoscopy
- High-flow oxygen
- High-flow nasal cannula

Frequent agreement:

- Nebulization
- Manual ventilation

Country	England/UK	France	Germany	Germany	USA	Europe	World
Organisation		HCSP	RKI	DGKH	CDC	ECDC	WHO
Date	17/05/2020	20/11/2020	26/01/2020	31/01/2020	05/04/2020	06/10/2020	01/12/2020
N°	Procedures						
1	Intubation						
2	Extubation						
3	Manual ventilation						
4	Suctioning						
5	Tracheotomy/tracheostomy procedures						
6	Bronchoscopy						
7	Dental procedures						
8	NIV						
9	High-Frequency Oscillating Ventilation						
10	HFNO also called High Flow Nasal Cannula						
11	Induction of sputum						
12	Upper ENT airway procedures						
13	Upper gastro-intestinal endoscopy						
14	Surgery/post-mortem procedures						
15	Aerosoltherapy						
16	Naso-pharyngeal sample						
17	Respiratory functional exploration						
18	Mechanical ventilation						
19	Cardiopulmonary resuscitation						

Measures to protect HCWs

Respirators

- Studies identified N95/FFP2 as protective **beyond** AGPs
- Reports of patient-to-HCW transmission despite adequate protection

Study	Description
<i>Klompas CID 2021</i> <small>doi: 10.1093/cid/ciab218</small>	3 transmissions (WGS) despite FM, eye protection
<i>Cheng CID 2021</i> <small>https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciab313</small>	9 HCW (WGS), possible airborne transmission, Air grilles
<i>Goldberg OFID 2021</i> <small>https://doi.org/10.1093/ofid/ofab036</small>	3 HCWs surgical masks, no direct contact, any AGPs

- However:
 - Possible biases of reported practices
 - Hand hygiene practices not reported
 - Correlation with other shielding measures, i.e. gown and goggles

Measures to protect HCWs

Respirators

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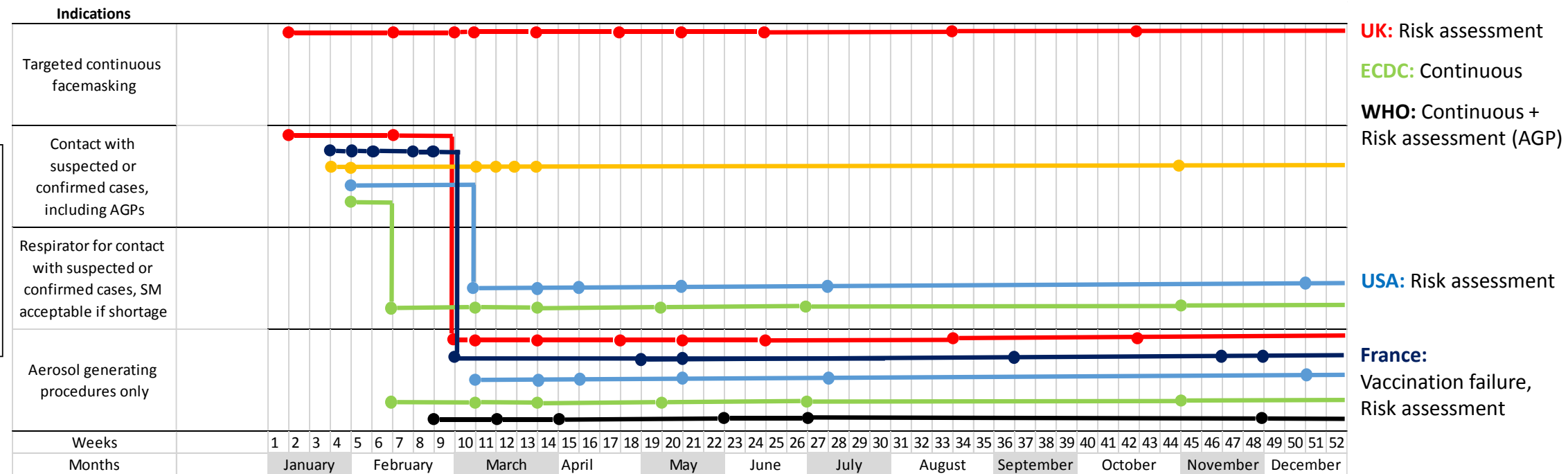
Even if airborne transmission seems to exist but beyond AGPs, further understanding is required regarding associated factors

Measures to protect HCWs

Respirators and COVID-19

Evolutions of indications for the use of respirators

2022



New guideline version according to countries

- England/UK
- France
- Germany
- CDC
- ECDC
- WHO




Bourouiba, JAMA
Turbulent Gas
Clouds

Birgand G et al, JAMA open, 2021

doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.19257

Measures to protect HCWs

Guidelines on PPE for COVID-19 Pts care

Organisations	Gown	Gloves	Face shield	Apron
	✓	✓	✓	If gown not FR and high volume of fluid
	If contact with body fluids	If contact with body fluids	✓	If gown not FR
	✓	✓	✓	✗

Measures to protect HCWs

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	If contact with body fluids	If contact with body fluids	✓	If gown not FR
	✓	✓	✓	✗
Contact precautions	✓	✓	✗	✗
Droplet precautions	✗	✗	✓	✗

Measures to protect HCWs

Risk factors and protective measures

- Systematic review and meta-analysis to investigate the impact of PPE on HCW infection during viral respiratory pandemics, until **July 6, 2020**
 - 54 comparative studies were included (n = 191,004 HCWs)

	COVID-19		H1N1		SARS		Overall
	N	OR, 95% CI	N	OR, 95% CI	N	OR, 95% CI	OR, 95% CI
Gloves vs no gloves	3	NS	5	NS	8		
Gown vs no gown	2	NS	1	NS	6		
SM vs no SM	1		5	NS	6		
N95 vs no N95	3		3	NS	7		
Face prot. vs no prot.	1	NS	2	NS	6		
HH vs no HH	2	NS	5	NS	6	NS	

“Efficacy of well known measures”

BUT

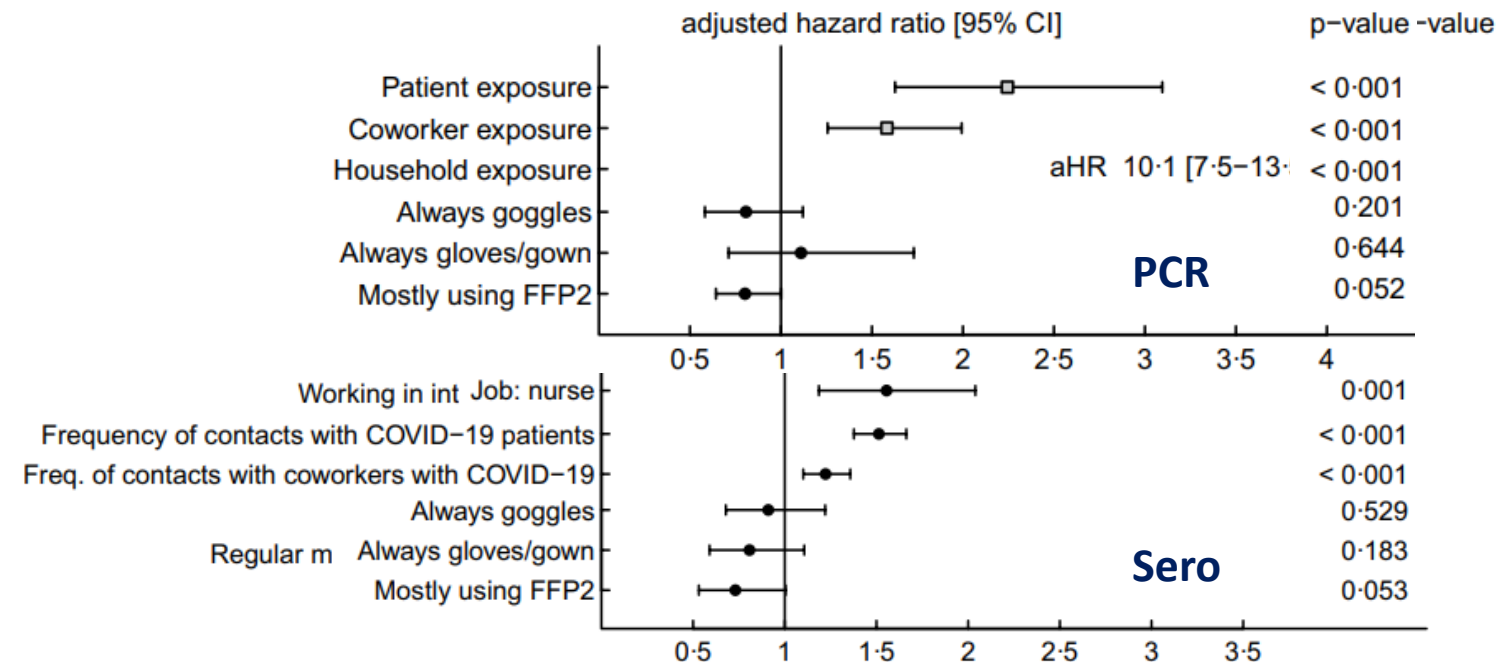
- Lack of randomized trials
- PPE usually worn in bundles, compliance?
- Heterogeneity of viral pathogens
- Lack of individual patient factors
- HCW-to-HCW transmission?

Measures to prevent HCW COVID-19

Risk factors and protective measures

- Prospective multicentre cohort, **unvaccinated HCW**
 - 3259 participants, 9 Swiss Hospitals, questionnaire on exposure, PPE

	Mostly SM (n=2543)	Mostly FFP2 (n=716)
Always goggles	18%	63%
Always gloves	36%	58%
Always gown	17%	64%
Always FFP2 for AGP	32%	69%

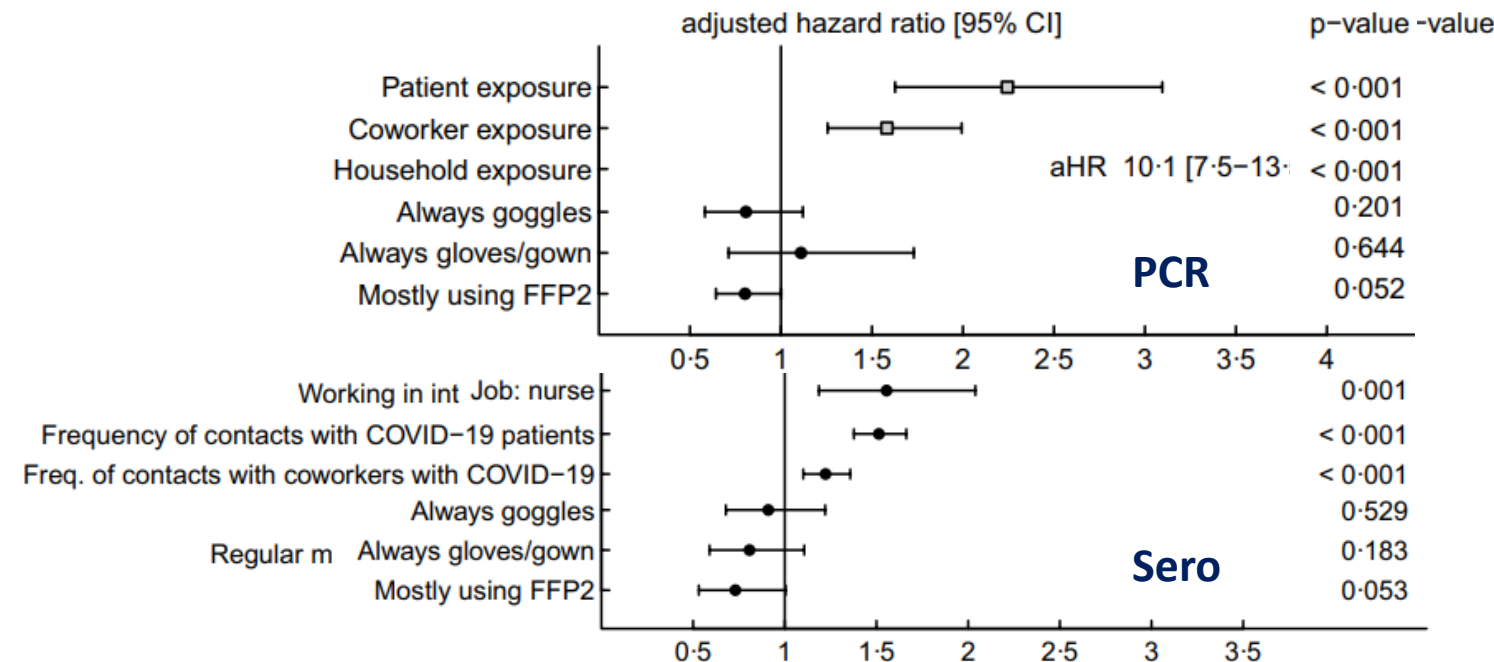


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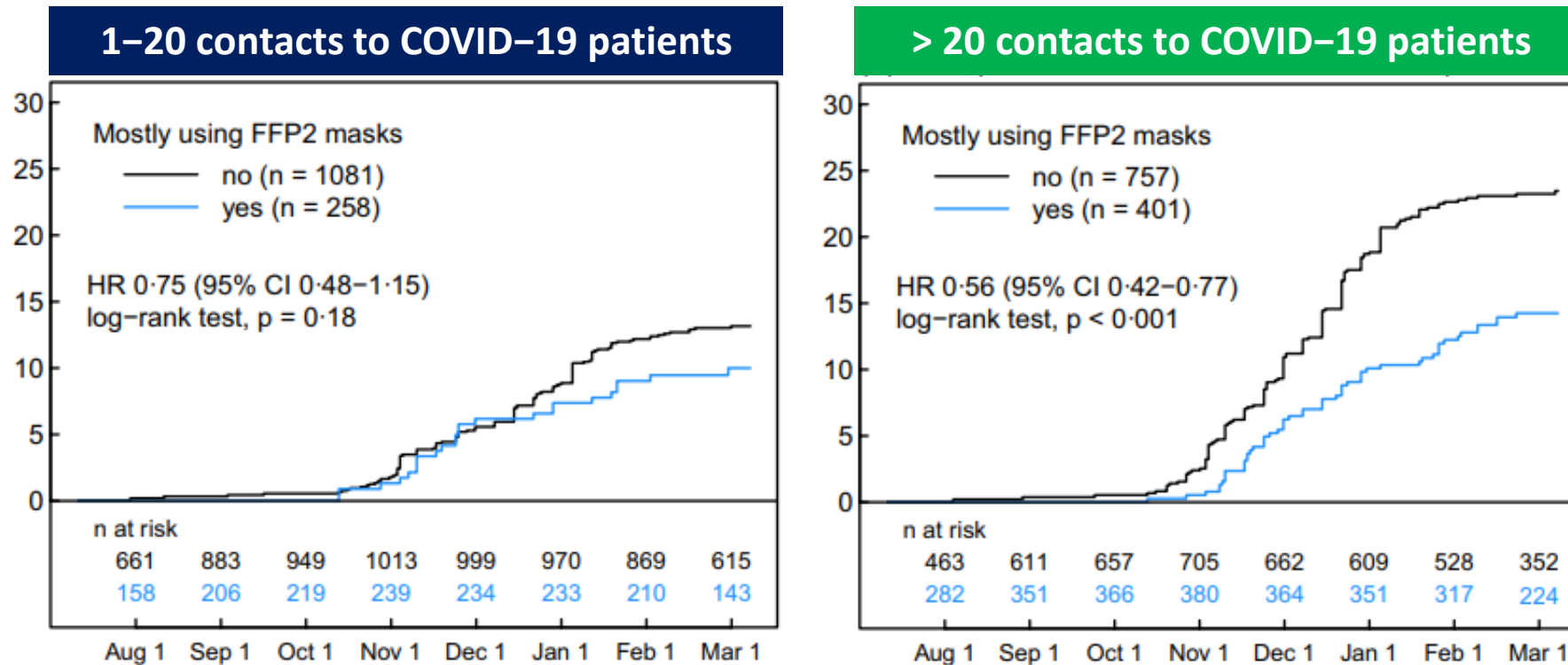
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Always FFP2 for AGP	32%	69%



For HCW performing AGP, universal use of FFP2 during AGP (irrespective of the patients COVID-19 status) showed no effect

Measures to prevent HCW COVID-19

Risk factors and protective measures

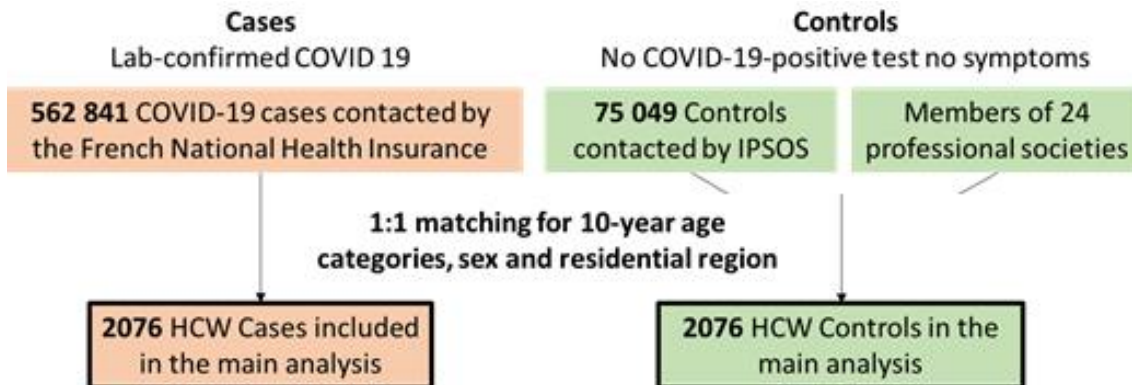
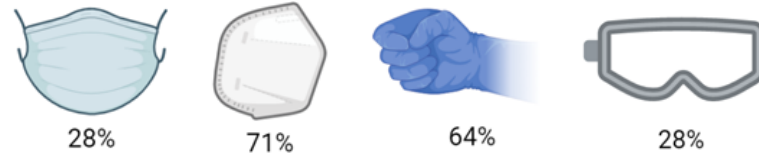


Gain to HCW in wearing FFP2 during work depend on
the **exposure inside and outside their activity.**

Risk factors and protective measures

- Retrospective matched case-control study, April-July 21, France
 - Hospital : 36%, Nursing home : 16%, Primary care : 48%, Auto-questionnaire

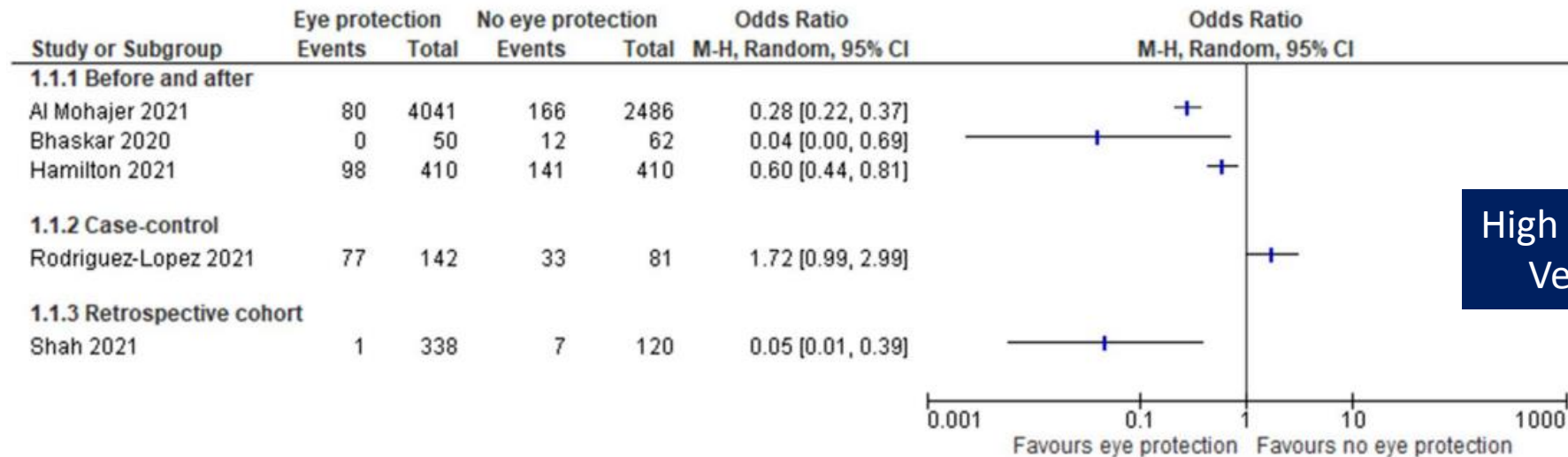
PPE for COVID-19 patient care :



For COVID-19 patients care	aOR (95% CI)
Mask type	
Surgical facemask	—
Cloth mask	1.67 (0.18–15.8)
N95 respirator	0.85 (0.55–1.29)
Gloves	1.44 (0.87–2.39)
Eye protection (goggles or faceshield)	0.57 (0.37–0.87)
Gown	0.58 (0.34–0.97)
Apron	1.47 (1.00–2.18)

Face shields

- Systematic review to assess the impact of eye protection on transmission of SARS-CoV-2



Face shields (in addition to masks) should be considered for higher risk situations or when there is substantial Covid spread in the community

Face shields

- Electronic survey in a US hospital
- 1,109 responses

Alzunitan, AJIC 2021

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2020.09.006>

Section	Question	Clinical workers (n = 568)		
		Face mask	Face shield	P
Comfort	→ Comfortable to wear (% agree)	33.3	15.6	<.001
	→ Easy to breathe (% agree)	24.0	67.0	<.001
	→ Easy to remove (% agree)	87.2	73.8	<.001
	→ Easy to see (% agree)	54.2	17.9	<.001
	Feels claustrophobic (% agree)	32.0	32.3	.983
	→ Feels too warm (% agree)	66.5	52.9	<.001
	→ Interferes with work (% agree)	31.1	61.1	<.001
	→ Lightweight (% agree)	93.5	20.9	<.001
	Minimal adjustment after putting it on (% agree)	52.9	34.1	<.001
	→ Skin irritation or itching (% agree)	56.2	40.2	<.001
Communication	→ Can hear others (% agree)	58.4	13.3	<.001
	Others can hear me clearly (% agree)	19.9	10.9	<.001
Safety	→ Feels protective (% agree)	71.5	65.7	.049
	Protects others (% agree)	86.3	74.1	<.001
	→ Change or disinfect after each use (% yes)	39.1	64.4	<.001
	→ Touching face in 4-hour period (% more than 5 times)	38.4	28.1	<.001

Need for light face shields models
to improve comfort and tolerability



Ability to adjust tension, shifting load bearing from the temples, anti-fogging, ventilation, freedom of movement, and durability

Kurtz, AJIC 2022

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2021.10.033>

Gown contamination during care of COVID-19 patients

Study	COVID-19 Pts	Results
Ong JAMA 2020 <small>doi:10.1001/jama.2020.3227</small>	3	0/2
Jung ARIC 2021 <small>https://doi.org/10.1186/s13756-021-01017-3</small>	12 severe	3/105 of coveralls
Aumeran JHI 2020 <small>https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhin.2020.11.004</small>	6 Moderate/severe	2/21 sleeves
Wei ARIC 2020 <small>https://doi.org/10.1186/s13756-020-00839-x</small>	9 > 30 days onset	0/55

Kurtz, AJIC 2022
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Unintended consequences

↗ CLABSI, GNB, ↘ HH, Long-sleeved gowns:

- Reservoir of pathogens?
 - Obstacle to hand hygiene (≈ long-sleeved white coat)
- Short sleeved gowns + Enhanced environmental cleaning

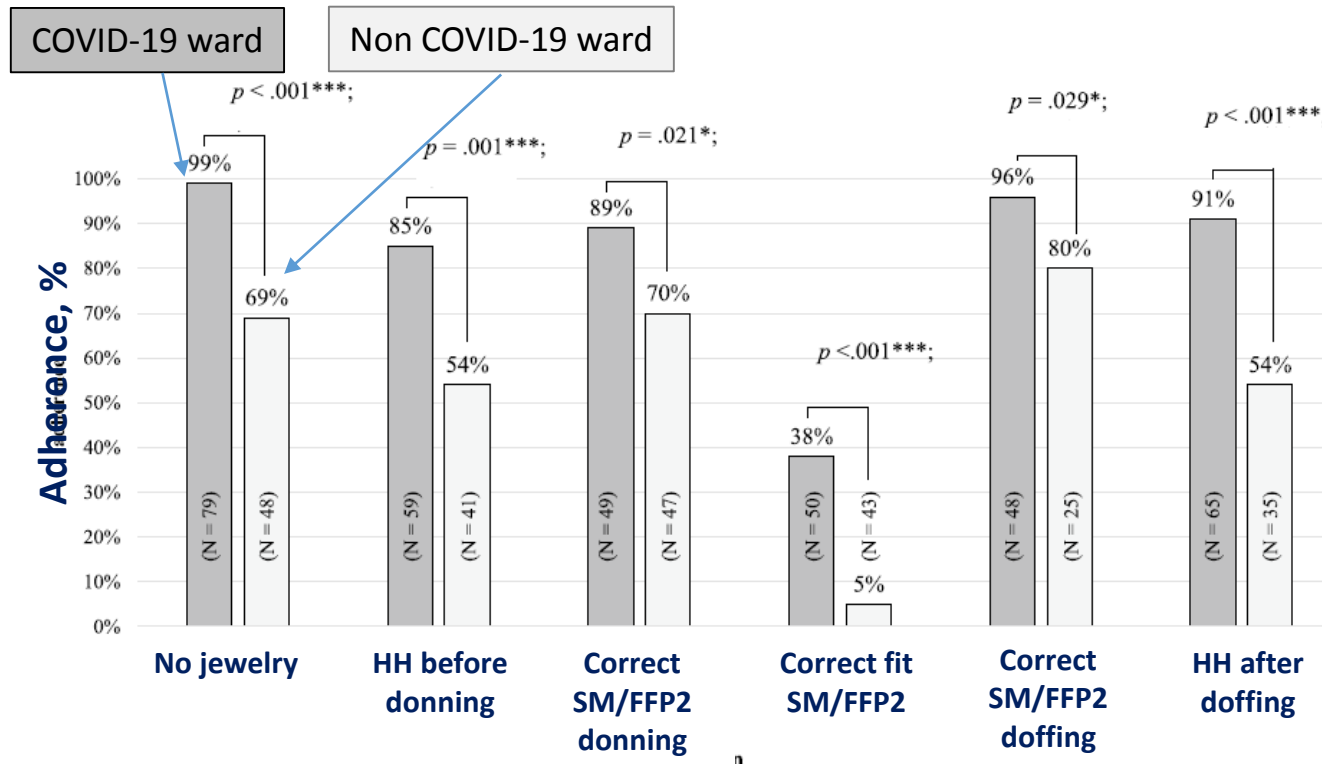


Meda, JHI 2020

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhin.2020.07.036>

Adherence to PPE use

- 127 situations requiring PPE in 8 wards at a university hospital in Cologne



Removal of gowns =
Most common errors (65%)

Better adherence in COVID-19 wards

Clear need for training in the correct and indication-appropriate use of PPE in general and outside COVID-19, ID, ICU wards.

Work restrictions for immunocompromised HCWs

- HCW at higher risk of developing severe COVID-19 illness should not be required to carry out tasks with **medium, high or very high risk levels**
 - Reassign to tasks or roles with lower exposure risk, i.e. telemedicine roles if clinical skills



Lower risk	Medium risk	High risk	Very high risk
Without close contact with public or COVID-19	Close contact with patients, visitors.. but not COVID-19	Close contact with COVID-19 or contact with surfaces contaminated	Exposure to aerosols or COVID-19, indoor, crowded, poor ventilation

- Enable vaccination, screening, early medical evaluation, prophylaxis and therapy
- Consider ethical, legal, privacy/confidentiality
- Understanding of risks, assuming that all patients may be infected

What to take away from this talk?

- Infectious risk to immunocompromised HCWs is **unknown**
 - Need for accurate **surveillance system**
 - Setting, exposure inside, **outside workplaces +++**
 - Ease risk assessment (multifactorial factors)
- Case-by-case assessment for additional **work restrictions**
- Level of evidence regarding impact of PPE remains low to moderate
 - Mostly reported practices by HCWs
 - PPE worn in bundle...
- Unintended consequences of overprotecting HCWs
 - **Simple universal measures** should be sufficient if strictly observed

Education, training, monitoring of PPE use critical (focus on non specialized HCWs)
Post-acute phase will be tough for IPC teams!!

Poll

Transmission-based precautions for COVID-19

Please select the answers you are agreeing for:

1. **Airborne precautions** should be applied for suspected/confirmed COVID-19
2. **Droplet precautions** should be applied for suspected/confirmed COVID-19
3. **Contact precautions** should be applied for suspected/confirmed COVID-19
4. The type of transmission-based precautions applied should be selected following a **point-of-care risk assessment** taking into account contact proximity, duration and task
5. **A new category of transmission-based precautions** should be established for COVID-19 and other **respiratory viruses** such as influenza

<https://online.eccmid.org/vote-183-e3845aa451373bc74fb114288969b055>



EUCIC EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON
INFECTION CONTROL

European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases



EUCIC
EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON
INFECTION CONTROL

@EUCIC1

Edit profile

Thank you

European Committee on Infection Control @ESCMID

@EUCIC1

EUCIC @escmid aims to strengthen infection control and preventive measures in European countries to reduce the burden of healthcare-associated infections

HCWs exposures to SARS-CoV-2

Retrospective matched case-control

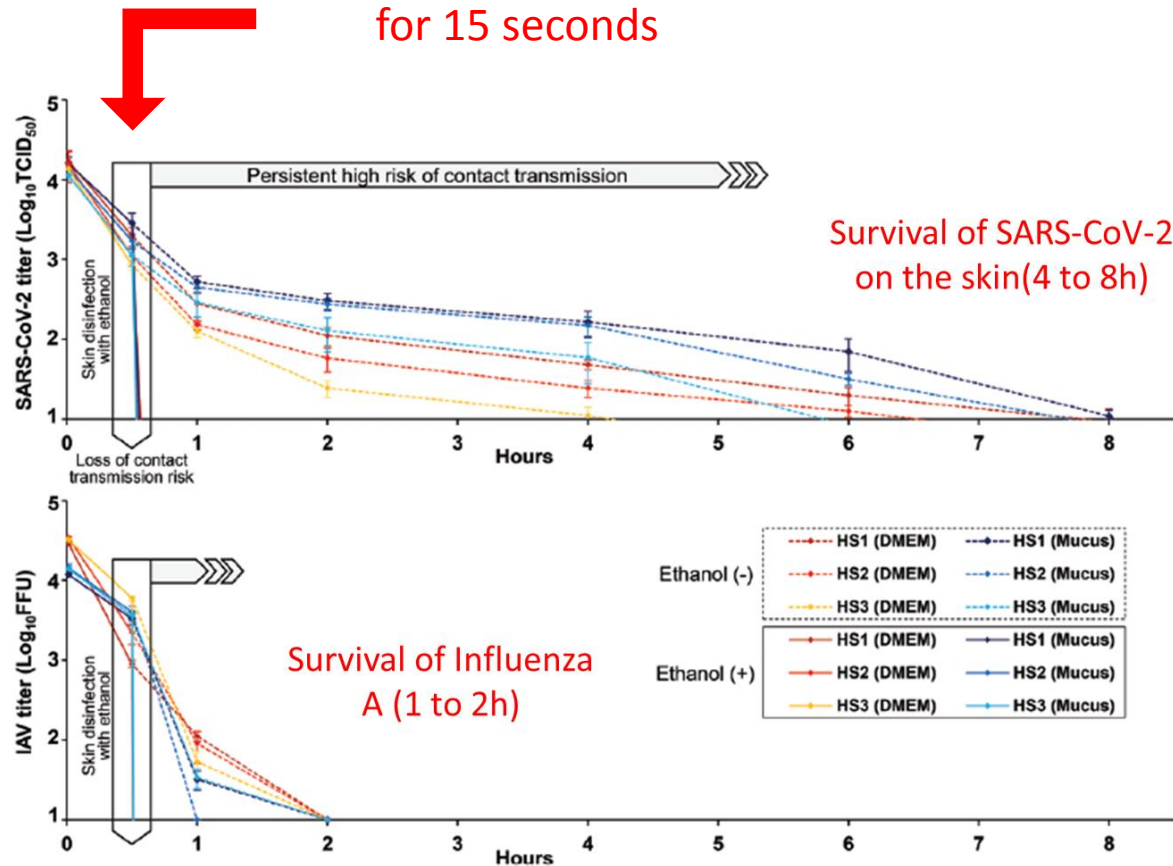
- 2076 cases: lab confirmed COVID-19
- 2076 controls: no positive test, no symptom
- Matching : age, sex and region, week
- Auto-questionnaire:
 - Personnel/professionnal characteristics
 - Exposures inside/outside work
 - PPE use

CHARACTERISTICS	aOR (95% CI)
Healthcare sector	
Hospital	Ref.
Long-term-care facility	1.11 (0.77–1.61)
Primary care	1.70 (1.28–2.26)
HCWs Professional category	
Medical professions	Ref.
Nurses	3.79 (2.50–5.76)
Nurse's assistants	9.08 (5.30–15.5)
Exposures within 10 days preceding inclusion	
Regular COVID-19-Pts-facing activities	2.37 (1.66–3.40)
Exposure to infected colleague	2.26 (1.53–3.33)
Exposure to infected person outside work	19.9 (12.4–31.9)
Professional cluster (patients and/or HCWs)	2.14 (1.50–3.06)

- HCWs at higher risks of getting COVID-19 **outside of work**
- **Non-hospital HCWs** have a higher risk of COVID-19 than hospital HCWs

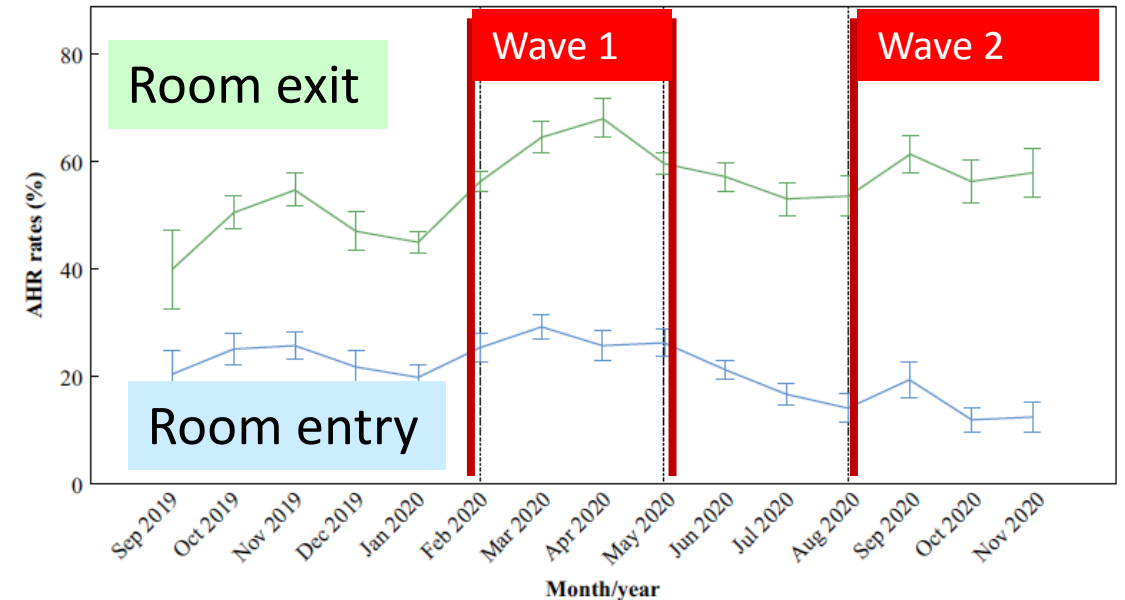
Effectiveness of hand hygiene

Effectiveness of ethanol
for 15 seconds



Automatic monitoring system

ID or cohort units, PPE with glove wearing



High compliance possible but difficult to sustain
HCW may see hand hygiene more as a means of
self-protection than patient protection

- US, CDC guidelines, February 2022

- Warrant additional **work restrictions**, require case-by-case assessment by OHS
- Work in **lower-risk areas**, minimized exposure to COVID-19 patients and coworkers

- France, High Council for Public Health, Jan 2022

- FFP2 to HCWs with vaccination failure in charge of COVID-19 patients (OHS advice)
- **Teleworking, adaptation of the workstation**, cessation of activity if not possible

- UK Health Security Agency, April 2022

- Avoid meeting with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19
- Speak to employer to find arrangements and reduce your risk

- Enable vaccination, screening, early medical evaluation, prophylaxis and therapy
- Consider ethical, legal, personal privacy and medical confidentiality
- Raise understanding of risks, assuming that all patients may be infected

COVID-19 mortality among HCWs

- **Objective:** to estimate the global number of deaths in HCWs due to COVID-19 between 1 January 2020 to 16 May 2021
- **Population:** “all staff involved in the provision of care to a COVID-19 patient”

Method 1	Method 2	Method 3
<p>Estimated number of HCWs in each country</p> <p>x</p> <p>Crude COVID-19 mortality rate</p>	<p>Estimated number of HCWs in each country</p> <p>x</p> <p>Crude COVID-19 mortality rate by age and sex</p>	<p>Overall COVID-19 cases</p> <p>x</p> <p>6.2% attack rate among HCW</p> <p>x</p> <p>0.8% letality among HCW</p>

Assumption: similar exposure and risk of death to general population

Risk to immunocompromised HCWs

- Comcor study, France from Feb 2021 to March 2022
 - Auto-questionnaire (personal/professional characteristics and exposures)

	Lab confirmed COVID-19 N=39 842 HCW	Non-COVID-19 N=5 225 HCW
Immunosuppressed	868 (2.3%)	108 (2.1%)
Non-immunosuppressed	36331 (97.2%)	5077 (99.7%)

Pearson Chi2, P=0,26

Immunosuppression does not seem to be associated with
an increased risk of COVID-19 among HCWs

Adherence to PPE use

And we can add...

- Not masking patients in presence of an HCW (source control)
- Reluctance for using face shield (in addition to mask)
- Incorrect or prolonged glove use → missed hand hygiene opportunities
- Incorrect or prolonged gown use
- HCWs interactions without mask:
 - Break rooms and friendly encounters (inside or outside the hospital)
 - Higher risk perception from (symptomatic) patients than from (asymptomatic) colleagues

Theory



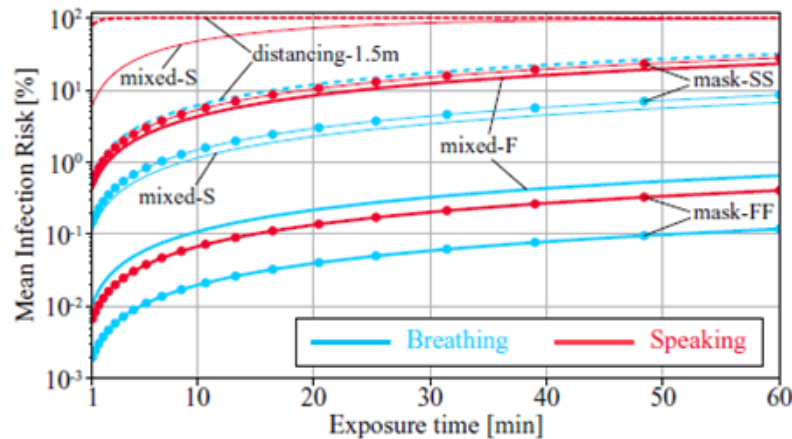
Reality



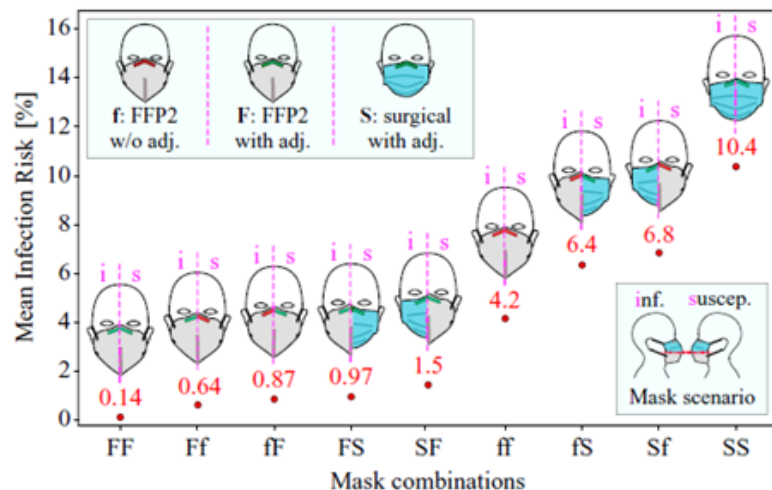
Measures to protect HCWs

Universal masking and COVID-19

Risk of infection related to exposure duration, masking but poorly distance



- **Without mask**, distancing (3 meters) not reduces risk of infection for speaking infectious
- **Distancing unsafe** after 1.5 min for a speaking infectious,
- **Masking by susceptible and infectious effective** for limiting transmission of SARSCoV-2, even when **face seal leaks** are considered.



Source control by masking infected patients is critical to consider for accurately protect HCWs

Measures to prevent HCW COVID-19

Which strategy to adopt during the post-crisis era?

IPC precautions before the COVID-19 pandemic

Precautions	Face mask HCW	Face mask Pts	Respirators HCW	Eye protection	Gloves	Gowns
Standard	When symptoms	-	-	Body fluids	Body fluids	Body fluids
Contact	+/-	-	-	-	+/-	When
Droplet	Close contact, room entry	When out of room	-	+/- Body fluids	-	-
Airborne	-	When out of room	At room entry	-	-	-

HH+++

Which strategy to adopt during the post-crisis era?

What IPC precautions will become ?

Precautions	Face mask HCW	Face mask Pts	Respirators HCW	Eye protection	Gloves	Gowns	Apron	
Standard	Systematic during winter	Systematic during winter	AGPs	AGPs	Body fluids	Large exp to body fluids	Body fluids	HH+++
Contact	+/-	-	-	-	-	When close contact		
Droplet	At room entry	When presence of HCW	Aerosol generating situations	Systematic	-	AGPs	Direct care	
Airborne	-	When presence of HCW	At room entry	+/-	-	+/- AGPs	+/-	

Local risk assessments of ventilation in the area, operational capacity,
and prevalence of infection