Statistical analysis: Comparing wearing masks vs full containment using the growth in number of confirmed COVID-19 rate

D. Holcman

Applied Math and Comp Biology, ENS, France

Flash note

April 4 2020

Abstract:

The present note shows that wearing a mask is as efficient as full confinement. We use the growth in number of confirmed rate.

Introduction:

Following the uncertainty propagated by media, we are here using a statistical argument in favour of the role of masks..

Results: the statistical analysis are made on the John-Hopkins databasis until April3. The analysis is made by comparing the rate of infection COVID-19 before and after containment (March 16) in 4 countries with different strategies.

- 1-Czech Republic (CR)—Mandatory wearing masks since March 18---
- 2-France-- Mandatory Containment--March 16
- 3- US--Free
- 4-Hong-Kong—Mandatory wearing mask since the beginning of COVID infection.

We show in Fig. 1 below that based on the increasing rate, the one in France is between the one of HK and CR, showing that a systematic use of masks is clearly efficient and equivalent to a strict confinement.

Conclusion:

Wearing a mask in defined conditioned (see rules in CR and Hong-Kong) is clearly an efficient mode of protection as revealing by the indicator we have followed today. Masks—of any type seems to work and constitute an efficient barrier and this is clearly much better than nothing.

Tips for making mask are available online, especially from Hong-Kong university:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNjpH5lBZ8w

https://www.wric.com/news/how-to-make-a-homemade-face-mask/https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nLK8ebNdgeM

See also the recommendation from CR: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HhNo_IOPOtU&t=2s https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_8hojsF-nY

FIGURE 1:

Growth in number of confirmed cases since march 3, 2020.

Compulsory Mask March 18in CZ.

Confinement in France normalized by data from March 16

