

COVID-19 OCULAR ASSOCIATIONS IN THE SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE:

SYNOPSIS 23

The COVID-19 pandemic began in December and has affected people in nearly every country in the world. We provide a summary of ocular-related associations with COVID-19 in the literature, and we plan to update this as we become aware of new manuscripts. Thus far, it appears that approximately 1-5% of COVID-19 patients experience conjunctivitis and very few COVID-19 patients exhibit virus in their tears.

Chu DK, AKL EA, Duda S, et al. Physical distancing, face masks, and eye protection to prevent person-to-person transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and COVID-19: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Lancet. 2020

- Systematic review and meta-analysis
- Investigating the effects of physical distance, face masks, and eye protection on virus transmission in healthcare and community settings
- 44 comparative studies in healthcare and community settings
- 25,697 participants with confirmed or probable cases of COVID-19, SARS, or MERS
- The unadjusted risk of infection is 70% lower with more than 1m social distancing than less than 1m social distancing
- Same result regardless of:
 - Virus (COVID-19, SARS, or MERS)
 - Setting (healthcare or community)
 - Type of face mask (surgical mask or N95)
- The unadjusted risk of infection is 66% lower with face mask
 - Association was stronger in healthcare setting than community
 - N95 did not provide better protection than surgical mask
- The unadjusted risk of infection is 64% lower with eye protection (goggles or face mask)
- Conclusions: "Physical distancing of at least 1m is strongly associated with protection, but distances of up to 2m might be more effective. Although direct evidence is limited, the optimum use of face masks, in particular N95 or similar respirators in healthcare settings and 12–16 layer cotton or surgical masks in the community, could depend on contextual factors; action is needed at all levels to address the paucity of better evidence."



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