#### **Presenter Disclosure**



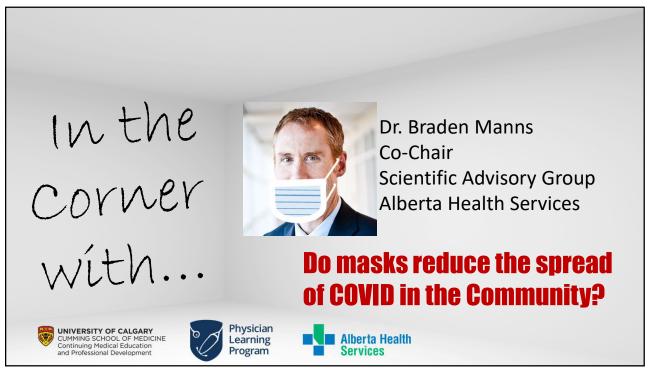


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**Disclosure**None to Disclose

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# Scientific Advisory Group COVID-19 Recommendations

novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

AHS' Scientific Advisory Group is connecting with clinicians, operational leaders, researchers and other experts to review emerging evidence and guidance of national and international bodies to provide information for focused areas of healthcare in relation to COVID-19. These resources are created to provide research informed advice to AHS physicians, staff, patients and families. Reports are updated frequently based on emerging evidence or concerns.

**COVID-19 Resources for AHS Staff & Health Professionals** 

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#### COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Group Rapid Response Report

Key Research Question: What is the effectiveness of wearing medical masks, including home-made masks, to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in the community? [Updated April 20, 2020]



www.albertahealthservices.ca

April 20, 2020

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## Key Messages from the Evidence Summary

- · Assessing the effectiveness of medical masks has been challenging
  - Systematic reviews of low quality studies in healthcare setting suggest reduction in ARI and ILI with medical mask use
  - Multiple inconclusive RCTs in the community, with lower quality studies suggesting reduced ILI in household members or ARI in mass gatherings
- Lab studies, modelling, ecological and anecdotal data suggest benefit to medical masks in the community, but there can be harms as well
- "No direct evidence that the use of a medical or homemade cloth mask or the wider use of masks in the community significantly reduces this risk"

April 20, 2020

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### For more information visit

• <a href="https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-sag-mask-use-in-community-rapid-review.pdf">https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-sag-mask-use-in-community-rapid-review.pdf</a>

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