

# Could masks curtail the post-lockdown resurgence of COVID-19 in the US?

Calistus N. Ngonghala<sup>†,††,\*</sup>, Enahoro Iboi<sup>◇</sup>, and Abba B. Gumel<sup>‡,‡‡</sup>

<sup>†</sup> *Department of Mathematics, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32611, USA.*

<sup>††</sup> *Emerging Pathogens Institute, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 32610, USA.*

<sup>◇</sup> *Department of Mathematics, Spelman College, Atlanta, Georgia, 30314, USA.*

<sup>‡</sup> *School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona, 85287, USA.*

<sup>‡‡</sup> *Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, University of Pretoria, Pretoria 0002, South Africa.*

## Appendices

### A Tables of variable descriptions, parameter descriptions, and parameter values

Table A1: Description of the state variables of the model (2.1)

State variable	Description
$S$	Population of susceptible individuals
$E$	Population of exposed (newly-infected but not infectious) individuals
$E_p$	Population of pre-symptomatic (infectious) individuals
$I_a$	Population of asymptotically-Infectious individuals
$I_m$	Population of infectious individuals with mild or moderate clinical symptoms of COVID-19
$I_s$	Population of infectious individuals with severe clinical symptoms of COVID-19
$I_i$	Population of infectious individuals in self-isolation
$I_h$	Population of hospitalized individuals
$I_c$	Population of individuals in ICU
$R_u$	Population of untested recovered individuals
$R_t$	Population of recovered individuals who received serology (antibody) test

\*Corresponding author: Email: [calistusnn@ufl.edu](mailto:calistusnn@ufl.edu)

Table A2: Description of parameters of the model (2.1)

Parameter	Description
$\beta_p(\beta_a)(\beta_m)(\beta_s)$	Effective contact rate for individuals in the $E_p(I_a)(I_m)(I_s)$ class
$\varepsilon_m$	Efficacy of face masks to prevent transmission and acquisition of infection ( $0 < \varepsilon_m \leq 1$ )
$c_m$	Compliance in face mask usage in the community ( $0 < c_m \leq 1$ )
$\theta$	Efficacy of isolation (self-isolation), hospitalization and ICU admission to prevent infected individuals in isolation, from transmitting the disease ( $0 \leq \theta \leq 1$ )
$\tau_d$	Detection rate of asymptotically-infected individuals <i>via</i> random diagnostic/surveillance testing
$\tau_s$	Detection rate of untested recovered individuals <i>via</i> serology (antibody) testing
$\tau_{dmax}(\tau_{smax})$	Maximum diagnostic (serology) detection rate
$T_n$	Average number of testing conducted <i>per</i> day
$\sigma_e$	Progression rate from $E$ to $E_p$ class
$\sigma_p$	Progression rate of pre-symptomatic exposed individuals to $I_a, I_m$ or $I_s$ class
$r$	Proportion of individuals in the $E_p$ class who show no clinical symptoms of COVID-19 at the end of the incubation period (and move to the $I_a$ class)
$1 - r$	Proportion of individuals in the $E_p$ class who show clinical symptoms of COVID-19 at the end of the incubation period (and move to the $I_m$ class, at a rate $g(1 - r)\sigma$ , or to the $I_s$ class, at a rate $(1 - g)(1 - r)\sigma$ )
$g$	Proportion of individuals in the $E_p$ class who develop mild symptoms of COVID-19 at the end of the incubation period
$1 - g$	Proportion of individuals in the $E_p$ class who develop severe symptoms of COVID-19 at the end of the incubation period
$f$	Proportion of individuals in the $I_s$ class who are hospitalized
$1 - f$	Proportion of individuals in the $I_s$ class who are self-isolated
$\rho_m$	Self-isolation rate for individuals in the $I_m$ class
$(1 - f)\rho_s$	Self-isolation rate for individuals in the $I_s$ class
$f\rho_s$	Hospitalization rate for individuals in the $I_s$ class
$\xi_i$	Hospitalization rate of self-isolated individuals
$\psi_h$	ICU admission rate for hospitalized individuals
$\gamma_a(\gamma_s)(\gamma_h)(\gamma_i)(\gamma_c)$	Recovery rate for individuals in the $I_a(I_s)(I_h)(I_i)(I_c)$ class
$\delta_s(\delta_h)(\delta_i)(\delta_c)$	Disease-induced death rate for individuals in the $I_s(I_h)(I_i)(I_c)$ class

Table A3: Baseline parameter values for the model (2.1) drawn from the literature.

Parameter	Value	Reference
$\varepsilon_m$	0.5	Estimated from [1]
$\sigma_e$	1/2.5	[2–6]
$\sigma_p$	1/2.5	[4–7]
$r$	0.324	Estimated from [8, 9]
$g$	0.719	Estimated from [8, 9]
$\rho_s$	1/3.5	[10]
$\psi_h$	1/6	[11]
$\gamma_a$	1/5	[11]
$\gamma_s$	1/10	[6, 12]
$\gamma_h$	1/8	[12]
$\gamma_i$	1/7	[13]
$\gamma_c$	1/10	[6, 12]
$\theta$	1	Assumed

Table A4: Calibrated parameter values for the model (2.1) using cumulative mortality data for the state of Arizona. (a) Pre-lockdown period (i.e., from March 6 to March 31, 2020). (b) Lockdown period (i.e., from March 31 to May 15, 2020). The lower 95% confidence interval bound is denoted by CI (low), while the upper 95% confidence interval bound is denoted by CI (up).

(a) Estimated parameters for the pre-lockdown period.

(b) Estimated parameters for the lockdown period.

Parameter	Value	95% CI (low)	95% CI (up)	Parameter	Value	95% CI (low)	95% CI (up)
$\beta_p$	1.4491	0.1988	1.8275	$\beta_p$	1.3149	1.0225	1.4491
$\beta_a$	0.5746	0.1000	0.9678	$\beta_a$	0.5746	0.4512	0.5746
$\beta_m$	0.6456	0.1000	3.1649	$\beta_m$	0.4372	0.1000	0.6456
$\beta_s$	0.4233	0.1000	0.6055	$\beta_s$	0.3893	0.2265	0.4233
$c_m$	0.0435	0.0357	0.0500	$c_m$	0.1392	0.1100	0.1715
$\tau_{dmax}$	0.2388	0.1537	0.4171	$\tau_{dmax}$	0.4525	0.3257	0.5721
$\rho_m$	0.2857	0.0571	0.2972	$\rho_m$	0.2552	0.0982	0.2857
$\xi_i$	0.2857	0.0857	0.2972	$\xi_i$	0.2601	0.1287	0.2857
$\delta_h$	0.0155	0.0050	0.0380	$\delta_h$	0.0081	0.0073	0.0103
$\delta_c$	0.0304	0.0300	0.0800	$\delta_c$	0.0108	0.0097	0.0137
$\delta_s$	0.0228	0.0225	0.0600	$\delta_s$	0.0054	0.0073	0.0069
$\delta_i$	0.0228	0.0225	0.0600	$\delta_i$	0.0054	0.0049	0.0069
$\mathcal{R}_c$	2.0510	0.7623	2.5078	$\mathcal{R}_c$	0.9415	0.0049	0.9877

Table A5: Calibrated parameter values for the model (2.1) using cumulative mortality data for the state of Florida. (a) Pre-lockdown period (i.e., from March 1 to April 3, 2020). (b) Lockdown period (i.e., from April 3 to May 4, 2020). The lower 95% confidence interval bound is denoted by CI (low), while the upper 95% confidence interval bound is denoted by CI (up).

(a) Estimated parameters for the pre-lockdown period.

(b) Estimated parameters for the lockdown period.

Parameter	Value	95% CI (low)	95% CI (up)	Parameter	Value	95% CI (low)	95% CI (up)
$\beta_p$	1.3523	0.8804	1.6706	$\beta_p$	1.1505	0.6004	2.3827
$\beta_a$	0.9232	0.4013	1.926	$\beta_a$	0.9232	0.1160	0.9832
$\beta_m$	0.6800	0.1000	0.8675	$\beta_m$	0.5064	0.1154	0.6800
$\beta_s$	0.2062	0.0100	0.2479	$\beta_s$	0.1642	0.1021	0.2062
$c_m$	0.0396	0.0374	0.05	$c_m$	0.1647	0.0800	0.2056
$\tau_{dmax}$	0.2309	0.1065	0.3011	$\tau_{dmax}$	0.4681	0.3242	0.8105
$\rho_m$	0.2857	0.0571	0.2956	$\rho_m$	0.1612	0.0857	0.1714
$\xi_i$	0.2561	0.0973	0.2857	$\xi_i$	0.2568	0.1143	0.2571
$\delta_h$	0.0051	0.0050	0.0320	$\delta_h$	0.0067	0.0040	0.0150
$\delta_c$	0.0308	0.0300	0.0702	$\delta_c$	0.0075	0.0014	0.0135
$\delta_s$	0.0231	0.0225	0.0527	$\delta_s$	0.0056	0.0011	0.0101
$\delta_i$	0.0231	0.0225	0.0527	$\delta_i$	0.0056	0.0011	0.0101
$\mathcal{R}_c$	2.0997	1.9118	2.2214	$\mathcal{R}_c$	0.9772	0.6638	0.9859

Table A6: Calibrated parameter values for the model (2.1) using cumulative mortality data for the state of New York. (a) Pre-lockdown period (i.e., from March 1 to March 22, 2020). (b) Lockdown period ((i.e., from March 22 to May 28, 2020)). The lower 95% confidence interval bound is denoted by CI (low), while the upper 95% confidence interval bound is denoted by CI (up).

(a) Estimated parameters for the pre-lockdown period.

(b) Estimated parameters for the lockdown period.

Parameter	Value	95% CI (low)	95% CI (up)	Parameter	Value	95% CI (low)	95% CI (up)
$\beta_p$	2.7450	1.3772	3.3895	$\beta_p$	1.0363	0.4207	1.8901
$\beta_a$	0.8989	0.1000	2.0134	$\beta_a$	0.8989	0.2228	0.9889
$\beta_m$	0.1254	0.1000	3.1228	$\beta_m$	0.4046	0.1735	0.5978
$\beta_s$	0.4246	0.1000	0.8043	$\beta_s$	0.5943	0.1000	0.7425
$c_m$	0.0190	0.0000	0.0500	$c_m$	0.1500	0.1222	0.2162
$\tau_{dmax}$	0.3010	0.3002	0.4940	$\tau_{dmax}$	0.4485	0.3010	0.6142
$\rho_m$	0.2857	0.0571	0.2896	$\rho_m$	0.2466	0.1716	0.2857
$\xi_i$	0.2822	0.0857	0.2857	$\xi_i$	0.2426	0.1714	0.2571
$\delta_h$	0.0371	0.0050	0.0400	$\delta_h$	0.0097	0.0067	0.0221
$\delta_c$	0.0434	0.0300	0.0800	$\delta_c$	0.0129	0.0089	0.0221
$\delta_s$	0.0326	0.0225	0.0600	$\delta_s$	0.0065	0.0044	0.0111
$\delta_i$	0.0326	0.0225	0.0600	$\delta_i$	0.0065	0.0044	0.0111
$\mathcal{R}_c$	2.5321	1.5460	3.2335	$\mathcal{R}_c$	0.8480	0.5307	0.8955

Table A7: Calibrated parameter values for the model (2.1) using cumulative mortality data for the entire US. (a) Pre-lockdown period (i.e., from January 22 to April 7, 2020). (b) Lockdown period (i.e., from April 7 to May 28, 2020). The lower 95% confidence interval bound is denoted by CI (low), while the upper 95% confidence interval bound is denoted by CI (up).

(a) Estimated parameters for the pre-lockdown period.

(b) Estimated parameters for the lockdown period.

Parameter	Value	95% CI (low)	95% CI (up)	Parameter	Value	95% CI (low)	95% CI (up)
$\beta_p$	0.7290	0.6677	0.7751	$\beta_p$	0.4075	0.3327	0.5454
$\beta_a$	0.8969	0.7745	0.9764	$\beta_a$	0.6036	0.1008	0.8614
$\beta_m$	0.8086	0.7530	0.9224	$\beta_m$	0.4592	0.2531	0.7336
$\beta_s$	0.4010	0.1870	0.4642	$\beta_s$	0.1344	0.1053	0.2635
$c_m$	0.0278	0.0276	0.0294	$c_m$	0.1835	0.1312	0.2300
$\tau_{dmax}$	0.1797	0.1722	0.1960	$\tau_{dmax}$	0.2294	0.1799	0.3812
$\rho_m$	0.1801	0.1584	0.1853	$\rho_m$	0.2571	0.1045	0.2684
$\xi_i$	0.1765	0.1316	0.2417	$\xi_i$	0.0795	0.0571	0.1557
$\delta_h$	0.0073	0.0052	0.0386	$\delta_h$	0.0048	0.0043	0.0050
$\delta_c$	0.0304	0.0300	0.0800	$\delta_c$	0.0064	0.0058	0.0067
$\delta_s$	0.0228	0.0225	0.0600	$\delta_s$	0.0032	0.0029	0.0034
$\delta_i$	0.0228	0.0225	0.0600	$\delta_i$	0.0032	0.0029	0.0034
$\mathcal{R}_c$	2.3277	2.2854	2.3758	$\mathcal{R}_c$	0.8833	0.6363	0.8929

Table A8: Percentage of community transmission generated by asymptomatic  $(\beta_p + \beta_a)/(\beta_p + \beta_a + \beta_m + \beta_s)$  and symptomatic infectious individuals  $(\beta_m + \beta_s)/(\beta_p + \beta_a + \beta_m + \beta_s)$  during the pre-lockdown and lockdown periods in the states of Arizona, Florida, New York, and the entire US.

Period	Transmission source	Arizona	Florida	New York	US
Pre-lockdown	Pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic ( $E_p + I_a$ )	65%	72%	87%	57%
	Symptomatic ( $I_m + I_s$ )	35%	28%	13%	43%
Lockdown	Pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic ( $E_p + I_a$ )	70%	76%	66%	63%
	Symptomatic ( $I_m + I_s$ )	30%	24%	34%	37%

Table A9: Percentage of community transmission generated by pre-symptomatic  $\beta_p/(\beta_p + \beta_a + \beta_m + \beta_s)$  and asymptomatic infectious individuals  $\beta_a/(\beta_p + \beta_a + \beta_m + \beta_s)$  during the pre-lockdown and lockdown periods in the states of Arizona, Florida, New York, and the entire US.

Period	Transmission source	Arizona	Florida	New York	US
Pre-lockdown	Pre-symptomatic ( $E_p$ )	47%	43%	65%	26%
	Asymptomatic ( $I_a$ )	19%	29%	21%	32%
Lockdown	Pre-symptomatic ( $E_p$ )	48%	42%	35%	25%
	Asymptomatic ( $I_a$ )	21%	34%	31%	38%

## References

- [1] A. Davies, K.-A. Thompson, K. Giri, G. Kafatos, J. Walker, and A. Bennett, “Testing the efficacy of homemade masks: would they protect in an influenza pandemic?” *Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness* **7**, 413–418 (2013).
- [2] L. Peng, W. Yang, D. Zhang, C. Zhuge, and L. Hong, “Epidemic analysis of COVID-19 in China by dynamical

modeling,” arXiv preprint arXiv:2002.06563 (2020).

[Online Version](#)

- [3] C. Zhou, “Evaluating new evidence in the early dynamics of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak in Wuhan, China with real time domestic traffic and potential asymptomatic transmissions,” medRxiv (2020).
- [4] N. M. Linton, T. Kobayashi, Y. Yang, K. Hayashi, A. R. Akhmetzhanov, S.-m. Jung, B. Yuan, R. Kinoshita, and H. Nishiura, “Incubation period and other epidemiological characteristics of 2019 novel coronavirus infections with right truncation: a statistical analysis of publicly available case data,” *Journal of Clinical Medicine* **9**, 538 (2020).
- [5] H. Sun, Y. Qiu, H. Yan, Y. Huang, Y. Zhu, and S. X. Chen, “Tracking and Predicting COVID-19 Epidemic in China Mainland,” medRxiv (2020).
- [6] L. Zou, F. Ruan, M. Huang, L. Liang, H. Huang, Z. Hong, J. Yu, M. Kang, Y. Song, J. Xia, et al., “SARS-CoV-2 viral load in upper respiratory specimens of infected patients,” *New England Journal of Medicine* **382**, 1177–1179 (2020).
- [7] C. You, Y. Deng, W. Hu, J. Sun, Q. Lin, F. Zhou, C. H. Pang, Y. Zhang, Z. Chen, and X.-H. Zhou, “Estimation of the time-varying reproduction number of COVID-19 outbreak in China,” Available at SSRN 3539694 (2020).
- [8] World Health Organization, “Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): situation report, 46,” WHO (2020).
- [9] Z. Wu and J. M. McGoogan, “Characteristics of and important lessons from the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in China: summary of a report of 72 314 cases from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention,” *JAMA* (2020).
- [10] M. Arentz, E. Yim, L. Klaff, S. Lokhandwala, F. X. Riedo, M. Chong, and M. Lee, “Characteristics and outcomes of 21 critically ill patients with COVID-19 in Washington State,” *Jama* (2020).
- [11] S. Kissler, C. Tedijanto, E. Goldstein, Y. Grad, and M. Lipsitch, “Projecting the transmission dynamics of SARS-CoV-2 through the postpandemic period,” *Science* (2020).

[Online Version](#)

- [12] N. M. Ferguson, D. Laydon, G. Nedjati-Gilani, N. Imai, K. Ainslie, M. Baguelin, S. Bhatia, A. Boonyasiri, Z. Cucunubá, G. Cuomo-Dannenburg, et al., “Impact of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) to reduce COVID-19 mortality and healthcare demand,” London: Imperial College COVID-19 Response Team, March **16** (2020).
- [13] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19): Caring for someone sick at home,” CDC (Assessed on April 29, 2020).

[Online Version](#)