

Guidelines International Network Standards for Clinical Practice Guidelines

Title of the Guideline	Update Alert: Use of N95, Surgical, or Cloth Masks to Prevent COVID-19 in Health Care and Community Settings: Living Practice Points From the American College of Physicians (Version 1)
Name of the Developing Organisation	American College of Physicians
Publication Date	October 27, 2020

Effective August 2013, G-I-N is requesting voluntary reporting on the G-I-N Guideline Standards¹ when a guideline is submitted for inclusion in the G-I-N Library.

Is your organisation willing to complete the form to provide information to a reader about your guideline?

YES

NO

Note: Rapid practice points are not clinical guidelines. Rapid practice points are designed to provide interim, time-sensitive answers, based on the best available evidence, to pressing questions related to individual and public health. The ACP practice points will be maintained as a living document and ACP Scientific Medical Policy Committee will monitor emerging evidence to determine its impact on the main findings and conclusions and issue updates as needed. See Additional Comments for full list of all update alerts and versions.

If Yes, please complete the checklist on the next page.

G-I-N Standards & Description¹	Standard Achieved?	If Yes, Page number(s)/document where the information is available
<p><u>Composition of Guideline Development Group</u></p> <p>Guideline development panel includes diverse and relevant stakeholders, such as health professionals, methodologists, experts on a topic, and patients.</p>	<p>X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat</p>	<p>See Appendix: Practice Points Development Process</p> <p>See ACP Practice Points Methods paper (citation under Additional Comments)</p>
<p><u>Decision-making Process</u></p> <p>Guideline describes the process used to reach consensus among the panel members and, if applicable, approval by the sponsoring organisation. This process was established before the start of guideline development.</p>	<p>X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat</p>	<p>See ACP Practice Points Methods paper (citation under Additional Comments)</p>
<p><u>Conflicts of Interest (disclosure)</u></p> <p>Guideline includes disclosure of the financial and nonfinancial conflicts of interest for members of the guideline development group.</p>	<p>X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat</p>	<p>See link to Disclosures in update alert</p>
<p><u>Conflicts of Interest (resolution)</u></p> <p>Guideline describes how any identified conflicts were recorded and resolved.</p>	<p>X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat</p>	<p>See ACP Practice Points Methods paper (citation under Additional Comments)</p> <p>See ACP DOI and COI management paper (citation under Additional Comments)</p>
G-I-N Standards & Description¹	Standard Achieved?	If Yes, page number(s)/document

where the information is available		
<u>Scope of a Guideline</u> Guideline specifies its objective(s) and scope.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	See section on page 1, <i>Background</i> (first paragraph), and listing of key questions on page 1 in version 1 (citation under Additional Comments)
<u>Methods</u> Guideline clearly describes the methods used for the guideline development in detail.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	See section on page 1, <i>Background</i> (second paragraph) in version 1 (citation under Additional Comments) See Appendix: Practice Points Development Process in version 1 (citation under Additional Comments) See Methods papers (citation under additional comments)
<u>Evidence Reviews</u> Guideline uses systematic evidence review methods to identify and evaluate evidence related to the guideline topic.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	See section on page 1, <i>Background</i> (second paragraph) in version 1 (citation under Additional Comments) See Appendix: Practice Points Development Process in version 1 (citation under Additional Comments) See Methods papers (citation under Additional Comments)

		See supporting rapid evidence review (citation under additional comments)
<u>Guideline Recommendations</u> Guideline recommendation clearly stated and based on scientific evidence of benefits; harms; and, if possible, costs.	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	See section, <i>Practice Points and Rationale</i> for rationale following each practice point statement
<u>Rating of Evidence</u> Guideline uses a rating system to communicate the quality and reliability of the evidence.	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	See footnote to Table 4 on page 5 See supporting rapid evidence review (citation under Additional Comments) See Methods paper (citation under Additional Comments)
G-I-N Standards & Description¹	Standard Achieved?	If Yes, page number(s)/document where the information is available
<u>Rating of Recommendations</u> Guideline uses a rating system to communicate the quality and reliability of the strength of its recommendations.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES X NO <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	See note on page 1 of standards form
<u>Peer Review and Stakeholder Consultations</u> Review by external stakeholders conducted before guideline publication.	X YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	See Methods paper (citation under Additional Comments)
<u>Guideline Expiration and Updating</u>	X YES	See <i>Background</i> section on page 1 (second paragraph)

Guideline includes an expiry date and/or describes the process that the guideline groups will use to update recommendations.	<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	in version 1 (citation under Additional Comments) See <i>Background</i> section on page 1 (second paragraph) and Appendix in version 1 (citation under Additional Comments) See Methods paper citation and version history under additional comments
<u>Financial Support and Sponsoring Organisation</u> Guideline discloses financial support for the development of both the evidence review as well as the guideline recommendations.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat	See <i>Financial Statement</i> on page 6 in version 1 (citation under Additional Comments)

Additional Comments

Versions and updates

Qaseem A, Etzeandia-Ikobaltzeta I, Yost J, et al. [Update Alert: Use of N95, Surgical, or Cloth Masks to Prevent COVID-19 in Health Care and Community Settings: Living Practice Points From the American College of Physicians \(Version 1\)](#). Ann Intern Med. 2020; 173: 170. [Epub ahead of print 27 October 2020]. doi:10.7326/L20-1268

Qaseem A, Etzeandia-Ikobaltzeta I, Yost J, et al. [Use of N95, Surgical, or Cloth Masks to Prevent COVID-19 in Health Care and Community Settings: Living Practice Points From the American College of Physicians \(Version 1\)](#). Ann Intern Med. 2020; 173: 642-649. [Epub ahead of print 18 June 2020]. doi:10.7326/M20-3234

Supporting evidence reviews

Chou R , Dana T , Jungbauer R , et al. [Masks for prevention of respiratory virus infections including SARS-CoV-2 in health care and community settings. A living and rapid review](#). Ann Intern Med. 2020; 173: 542-55. [Epub ahead of print 24 June 2020]. doi:10.7326/M20-3213

Methods papers

Qaseem A, Yost J, Forcica M, et al. [The Development of Living, Rapid Practice Points: Summary of Methods From the Scientific Medical Policy Committee of the American College of Physicians](#). Ann Intern Med. 2021; 174. [Epub ahead of print 25 March 2021]. doi:10.7326/M20-7641

Qaseem A, Wilt TJ, for the Clinical Guidelines Committee of the American College of Physicians. [Disclosure of Interests and Management of Conflicts of Interest in Clinical Guidelines and Guidance Statements: Methods From the Clinical Guidelines Committee of the American College of Physicians](#). Ann Intern Med. 2019; 171:354–361. [Epub ahead of print 20 August 2019]. doi.org/10.7326/M18-3279