



## **COVID-19 IS NOT OVER YET: DON'T RELAX**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

I read Meghan McGarry's paper published in *The Lancet* on August 29. It was illustrated with Portland Press Herald/Getty Image showing a doctor with gloves and wearing protective clothing examining a patient. The doctor checking the patient was not wearing a mask or cap and, given the current COVID-19 pandemic, this is a serious violation of the medical rules and regulations for normal operation, not only increasing their risk of infection but increasing the risk of infection for other personnel, also.<sup>1</sup> The publication of this picture in *The Lancet* could also seriously mislead the public and medical staff into thinking that medical staff can check patients without wearing masks.

Since the declaration of a worldwide pandemic, COVID-19 has continued to spread globally, as a result of the same risk control strategies in each country. A workshop convened by WHO in 2019 reviewed the evidence on non-pharmaceutical public health measures, including the use of masks to mitigate the risk and impact of pandemic influenza. The workshop concluded that, while there was no evidence of effectiveness in reducing transmission, "the potential effectiveness of this measure is mechanically possible" and recommended that the use of masks in public places should be considered during a severe influenza pandemic.<sup>2</sup>

The simplest and most effective prevention and control measure to prevent COVID-19 infection is the wearing of masks. It is everyone's responsibility to prevent and control COVID-19.

So as not to follow fluke psychology, and in particular when medical personnel inspect a patient, they should abide strictly by the operating rules and regulations.

Given that corona viruses are respiratory infections, people often wear masks to protect themselves and protect others from droplets. This approach is important because SARS-COV-2 may spread asymptotically.<sup>3, 4</sup> It is recommended that magazines and news media report in a responsible manner and strictly review images to avoid misleading the public and medical staff during the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, we hope that the majority of medical staff involved in the examination and treatment of patients strictly implement all kinds of rules and regulations, to prevent their own infection, cross infection and other risks.

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