EARLIER MANDATORY MASK POLICY IN THE U.S. COULD HAVE SAVED THOUSANDS OF LIVES, ARGUES NEW COVID-19 WORKING PAPER

Policies and information on transmission risks are important determinants of people’s social distancing behavior.

Removing all policies would have led to seven times more additional cases by the end of May.

Stay-at-home orders alone helped reduce cases by 25 to 170% by the end of May.

Nationally mandating face masks for public workers on April 1 would have led to 17 to 55% fewer reported cases by the end of May, which translates into roughly 17,000 to 57,000 lives saved.