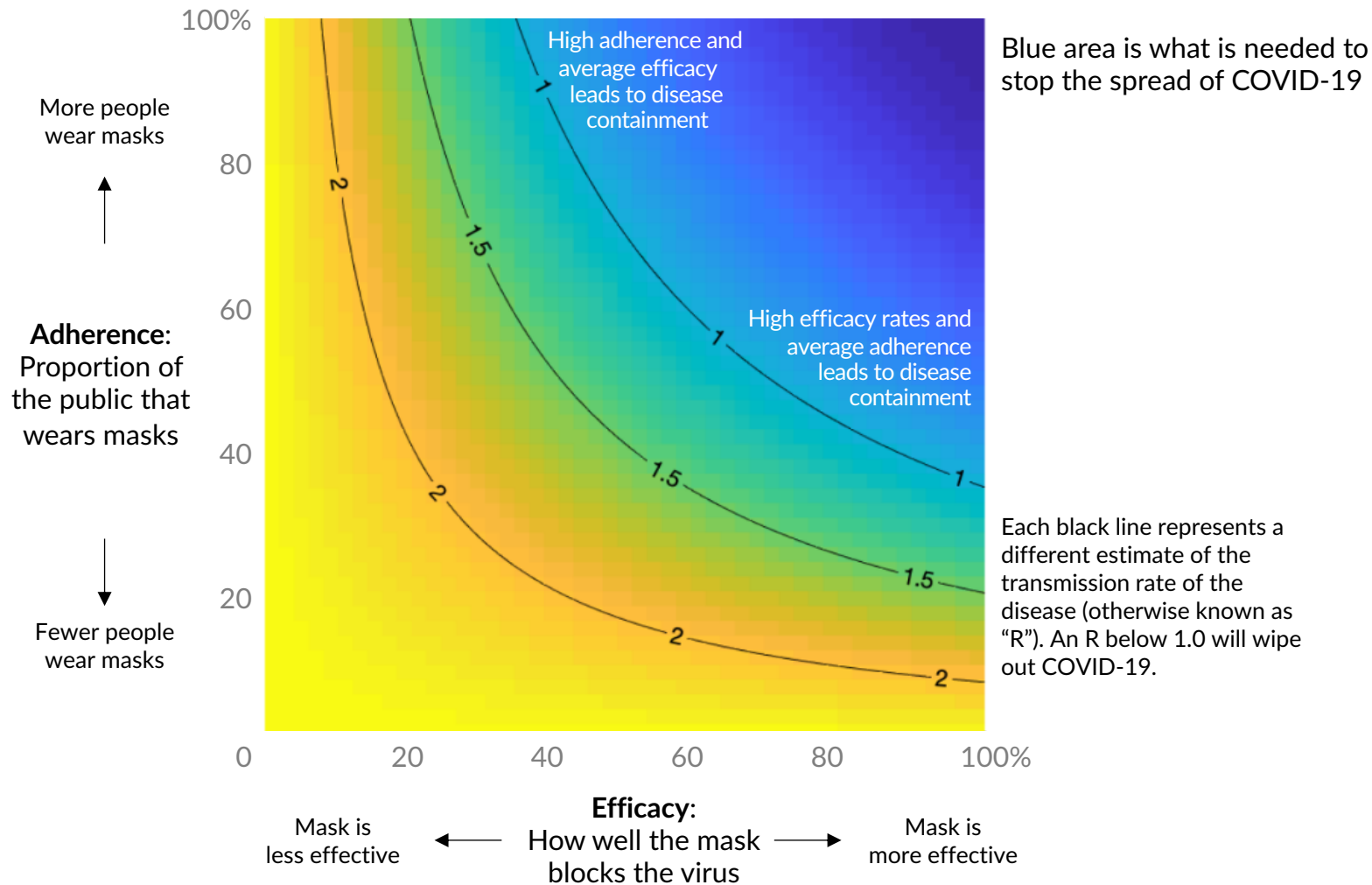


If most people wear a mask in public, the transmission rate can entirely stop the spread of COVID-19



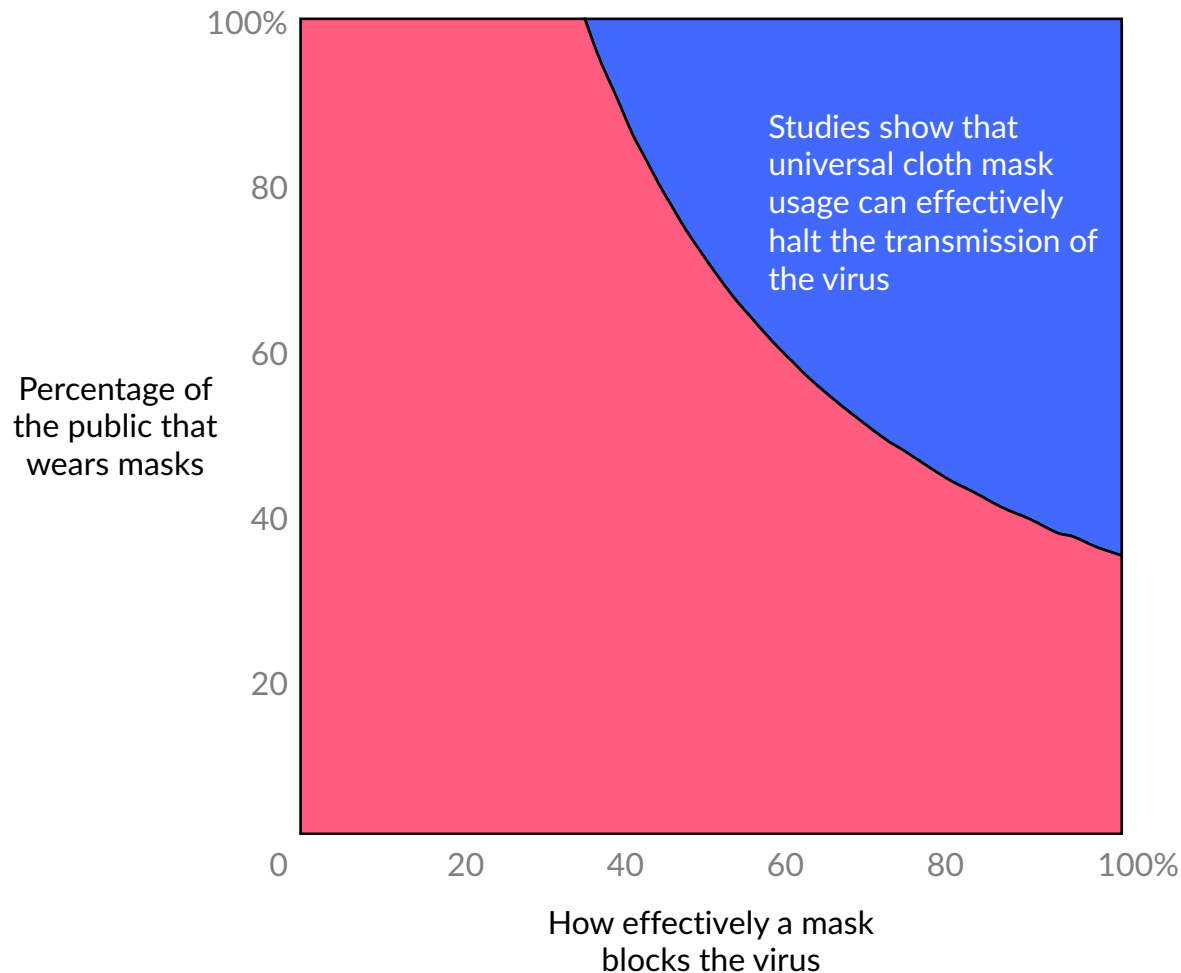
The science around the use of masks by the general public to slow or stop the transmission of COVID-19 is advancing rapidly. Based on mathematical models of how the disease is spread from person to person, Tian Liang and a team of researchers at the HKBU COVID-19 Modeling Group at Hong Kong Baptist University estimated how face masks could slow or stop the spread of COVID-19.

The standard epidemiological measure of spread is known as the "reproduction number" or R and measures the number of cases infected by one person infected with a disease. They estimate that wearing masks reduces the R, and if more people wore masks and those masks blocked the virus, the spread of the disease would be slowed or even stopped.

Source: L Tian, et al., "Calibrated Intervention and Containment of the COVID-19 Pandemic" (2020), <https://arxiv.org/abs/2003.07353>, page 10 of the Supplementary Materials. Also see Howard et al. "Face Masks Against COVID-19: An Evidence Review," Preprints 2020, <https://www.preprints.org/manuscript/202004.0203/v1>.

Graphic created by Jonathan Schwabish, @jschwabish

Studies show that if most people wear a mask in public, the transmission rate can entirely stop the spread of COVID-19



The science around the use of masks by the general public to slow or stop the transmission of COVID-19 is advancing rapidly. Based on mathematical models of how the disease is spread from person to person, Tian Liang and a team of researchers at the HKBU COVID-19 Modeling Group at Hong Kong Baptist University estimated how face masks could slow or stop the spread of COVID-19.

The standard epidemiological measure of spread is known as the “reproduction number” or R_0 and measures the number of cases infected by one person infected with a disease. They estimate that wearing masks reduces the R_0 , and if more people wore masks and those masks blocked the virus, the spread of the disease would be slowed or even stopped.

Source: L Tian, et al., “Calibrated Intervention and Containment of the COVID-19 Pandemic” (2020), <https://arxiv.org/abs/2003.07353>, page 10 of the Supplementary Materials. Also see Howard et al. “Face Masks Against COVID-19: An Evidence Review,” *Preprints* 2020, <https://www.preprints.org/manuscript/202004.0203/v1>.
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