

Table 1: Summary of study designs and evidence quality (GRADE criteria)

Study ID	Study design	Quality assessment
Aiello-2010	RCT	Moderate
Aiello-2012	cRCT	Moderate
Alfelali-2019	cRCT	Moderate
MacIntyre-2009	cRCT	Moderate
MacIntyre-2016	cRCT	Moderate
Simmerman-2011	RCT	Moderate
Suess-2012	cRCT	Moderate
Barasheed-2014	cRCT	Low
Cowling-2009	cRCT	Low
Al-Jasser-2013	Cohort	Low
Balaban-2012	Cohort	Low
Choudhry-2006	Cohort	Low
Gautret-2011	Cohort	Low
Gautret-2015	Cohort	Very low
Larson-2010	Cohort	Very low
Wu-2004	Case-control	Low
Emamian-2013	Case-control	Very low
Zhang-2013b	Case-control	Very low
Kim-2011	Cross-sectional	Low
Uchida-2017	Cross-sectional	Low
Deris-2010	Cross-sectional	Very low
Hashim-2016	Cross-sectional	Very low
Wu-2016	Cross-sectional	Very low
Ma-2020	Experiment	Difficult to evaluate

Table 2. Summary of findings on mode of transmission of common human respiratory pathogens

Pathogen	Contact ¹	ref	Droplets	ref	Aerosols			Transmission events ²	ref	
					Detectable	ref	Viable			
Measles	yes	Kutter, 2019; Shiu, 2019	mixed	Kutter, 2019; Shiu, 2019	not known		not known	yes	Kutter, 2019; Shiu, 2019	
Parainfluenza virus	yes	Kutter, 2019	yes	Kutter, 2019	not known		not known	not known		
Human metapneumovirus	yes	Kutter, 2019; Shiu, 2019	yes	Kutter, 2019	not known		not known	not known		
Respiratory syncytial virus	yes	Nam, 2019; Shiu, 2019; Kutter, 2019	yes	Nam, 2019; Shiu, 2019; Kutter, 2019	not known		not known	not known		
Influenza virus	yes	Public Health England-2014, 2014; SAunders, 2017; Otter, 2016; Kutter, 2019; Moghadami, 2017	yes	Shiu, 2019; Moghadami, 2017; Kutter, 2019; Otter 2016; Saunders, 2017; Public Health England-2014, 2014; macIntyre, 2015; Leung 2020; Cowling 2010	yes	Leung, 2020	yes	mixed	Cowling, 2010; macIntyre, 2015; Public Health England-2014, 2014	Shiu, 2019
Human rhinovirus	yes	Kutter, 2019	yes	Leung, 2020; Kutter 2019	yes	Leung, 2020; Kutter, 2019	not known	yes	Kutter, 2019	
Coronavirus (CoV), seasonal	not known	–	yes	Leung, 2020	yes	Leung, 2020	not known	not known		
Adenovirus	yes	Kutter, 2019	yes	Kutter, 2019	not known		not known	yes	Kutter, 2019	
SARS-CoV-1	yes	Shiu, 2019; Kutter 2019; Adhikari 2020; Huggonet 2004; Otter 2016	yes	Shiu, 2019; Kutter 2019; Huggonet 2004; Otter 2016	not known		yes	not known	Huggonet 2004; Shiu, 2019; Kutter 2019; Doremala, 2020	
MERS-CoV	yes	Shapiro 2016; Adhikari 2020; Otter 2016	Yes	Raoult 2020; Kilerby 2020; Shapiro 2016; Otter 2016	yes	Shapiro 2016	not known	not known		
SARS-CoV-2	yes	Di Wu, 2020; Peng 2020; Hui 2020; Adhikari 2020; Rothan 2020; Jeffersen 2020; Greenhalgh 2020	yes	Raoult 2020; Wang 2020; Raoult 2020; Liu 2020; Peng 2020; Hui 2020; Adhikari 2020; Rothan 2020; Wilder-Smith; Jeffersen 2020; Greenhalgh 2020; Bourouiba 2020	yes	Liu 2020; Bourouiba 2020	yes	not known	van Doremalen, 2020; Adhikari 2020	

SARS = Severe acute respiratory syndrome; MERS = Middle East respiratory syndrome; ref = reference

¹ Transmission by contact includes direct contact (person to person) and indirect contact via a contaminated object.

² Transmission event is defined by the transmission of a pathogen via a specific route (e.g. aerosols), causing human infection