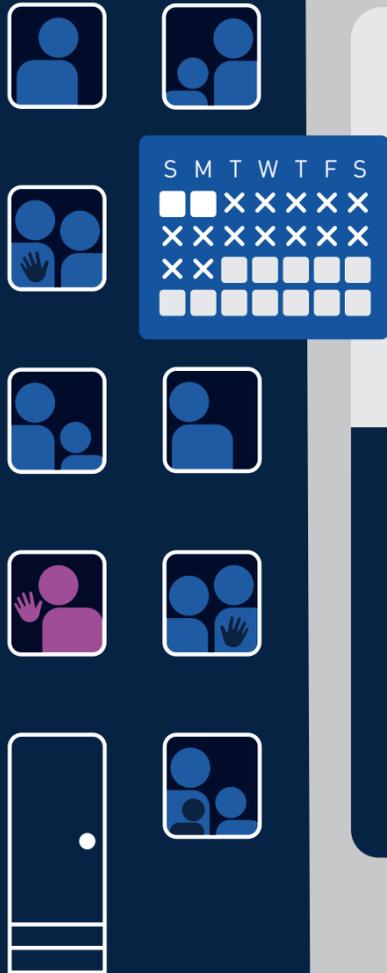


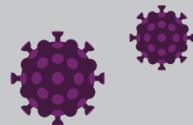
Trusted evidence.  
Informed decisions.  
Better health.

# Quarantine to control COVID-19



Coronavirus disease (**COVID-19**) is caused by a new virus that has spread rapidly around the globe. There is no effective treatment or vaccine for COVID-19, so restrictive measures such as **quarantine**, isolation and physical distancing are being used to reduce transmission of the infection.

This Cochrane rapid review was commissioned by the World Health Organization (WHO) to assess whether and **how effectively quarantine stops COVID-19 spreading**, and if it prevents death.



## Key findings

Our rapid review looked at the latest evidence from modelling studies and found:

Combining quarantine with other measures, such as closing schools or physical distancing, is more effective at reducing the spread of COVID-19 than quarantine alone.

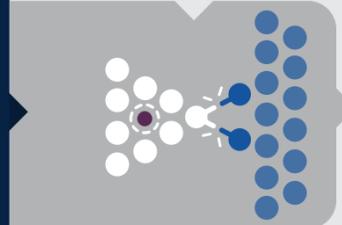
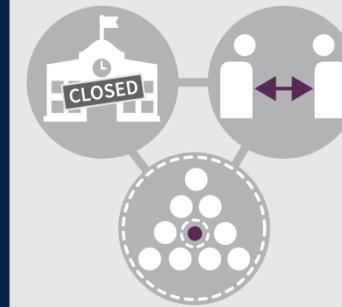
Quarantine of people exposed to confirmed cases may avert high proportions of infections and deaths compared to no measures.

More comprehensive and early implementation of prevention and control measures may be more effective in containing the COVID-19 outbreak.



**Quarantine** is used to separate and restrict the movement of people who are well but who may have been exposed to COVID-19. It can be voluntary or legally enforced.

**Isolation** is different from quarantine. Isolation is used to separate confirmed cases from those who are well.



## We included 51 studies in this rapid review

Studies looked at the number of COVID-19, SARS or MERS cases, how quickly the virus spread, how many people died, and the financial costs of quarantine.

- 4 quarantine observational studies of 6000+ people in China, Greece and Singapore
- 28 simulated outbreaks in 10 specific countries, the Diamond Princess cruise ship and within the general population

32 focused on Covid-19

14 studies on SARS

3 on SARS and other viruses

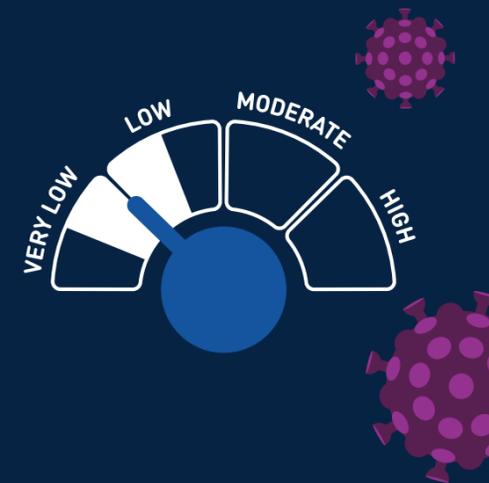
2 on MERS alone

## Certainty of evidence

Studies on COVID-19 did not include a comparison group without quarantine. The COVID-19 studies based their models on limited data and made different assumptions about the virus (e.g. how quickly it would spread).

The other studies investigated SARS and MERS so they only provide indirect evidence.

**For this reason we judge the certainty of evidence to be low/very low.**



This review includes evidence published up to 23 June 2020.