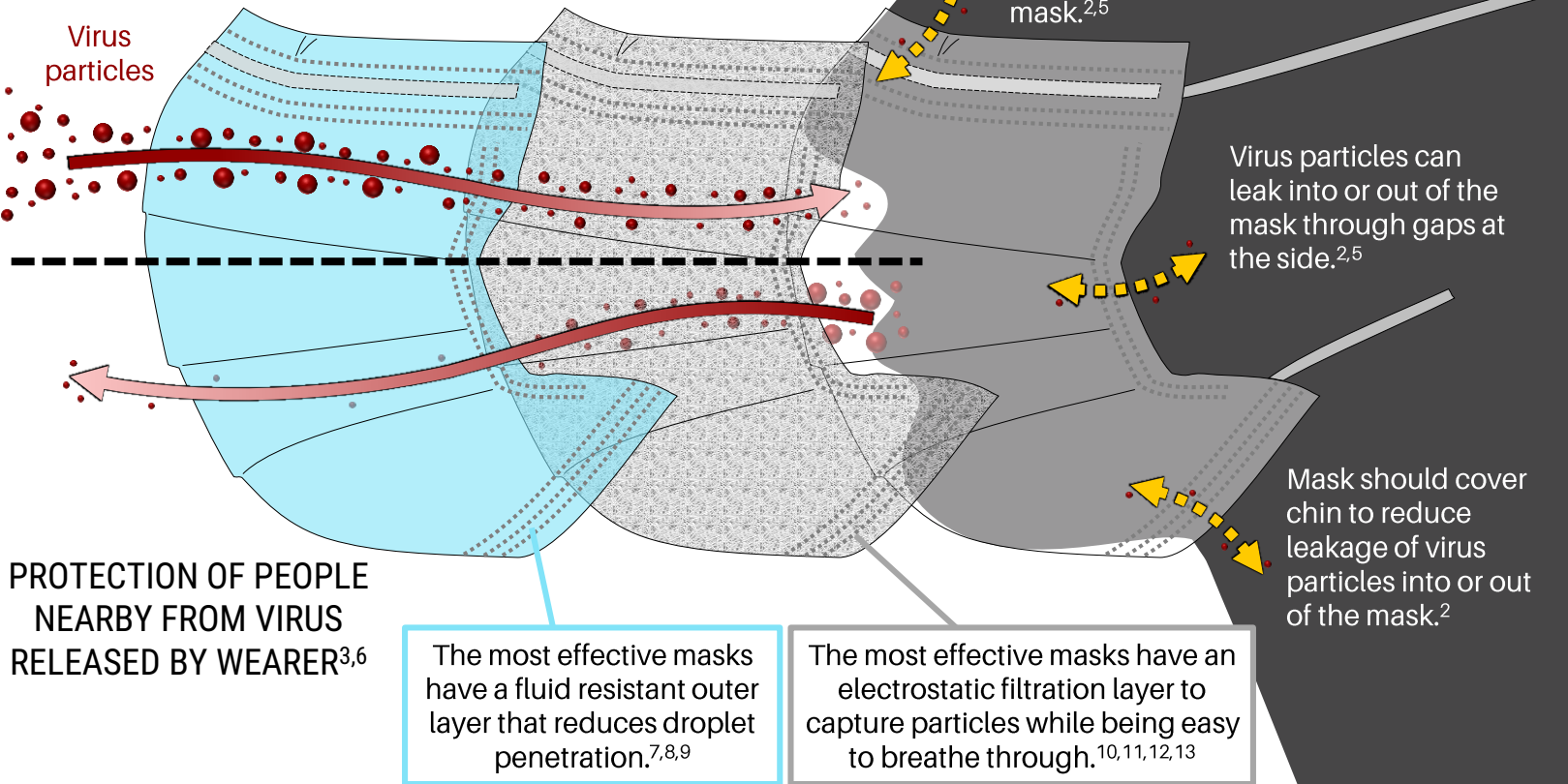


WHAT IS A SURGICAL MASK?*



PROTECTION OF
WEARER FROM EXPOSURE
TO VIRUS^{2,3,4,5}

Virus
particles



The most effective masks have a nosepiece that bends to fit the face, reducing gaps through which virus particles can leak into or out of the mask.^{2,5}

Virus particles can leak into or out of the mask through gaps at the side.^{2,5}

Mask should cover chin to reduce leakage of virus particles into or out of the mask.²

PROTECTION OF PEOPLE
NEARBY FROM VIRUS
RELEASED BY WEARER^{3,6}

The most effective masks have a fluid resistant outer layer that reduces droplet penetration.^{7,8,9}

The most effective masks have an electrostatic filtration layer to capture particles while being easy to breathe through.^{10,11,12,13}

* A major recent review of SARS transmission studies suggests that face masks, eye protection and physical distancing are all protective for the public.¹⁴ Other studies, with various viruses, have shown mixed results on the use of masks.^{4,15,16,17,18,19}

CAUTION: Surgical style masks vary greatly in quality of filtration efficiency, fluid resistance and fit.^{8,9} The highest quality are rated as ASTM Level 1 or higher and are usually marketed as surgical or medical masks.^{8,20} Lower quality masks are not ASTM rated and may be marketed as surgical, medical, procedure, dental, isolation, or laser masks.^{8,10,20}

SUPPORTING RESEARCH

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