

Health Guideline Terms

What is **certainty** of evidence?

Certainty of evidence is also called **quality of evidence**.

Certainty of evidence is about **how sure we are** or how confident we are that the result from the review of the evidence comes **close to the truth**.



Financial contribution:



Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé
publique du Canada

Health Guideline Terms

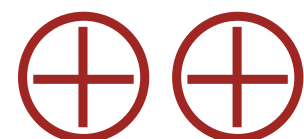

What is **certainty** of evidence?

Each recommendation shows the **certainty** of the evidence or "how sure we are" about the evidence

Recommendation

The CAN-PCC Collaborative suggests adults in the community who do not show symptoms of COVID-19 use face masks to prevent COVID-19 infection with the aim of preventing post COVID-19 condition.*

Certainty of evidence

  Low

Recommendation strength

 Conditional

*The full recommendation can be viewed [here](#), and includes remarks and additional information.

Financial contribution:

How do we decide on the **certainty of evidence?**



We use a **system or checklist called GRADE** that allows us to report and decide on the certainty of evidence.

Financial contribution:



Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé
publique du Canada

What are the four different levels of **certainty of evidence**?

HIGH ++++

We are **very confident** that the results are close to the truth.

MODERATE +++

We are **moderately confident** that the results are likely close to the truth.

LOW ++

We have **little confidence**. The results may be substantially different from the truth.

VERY LOW +

We have **very little confidence**. The results are likely to be substantially different from the truth.

Financial contribution:



Public Health
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé
publique du Canada

How does a guideline group rate **certainty of evidence**?

Step 1:

Consider your **result**.



Step 2:

Look at **factors** that lower or raise how confident we are in that result.

Lower certainty if:

The studies don't test the right people, the right treatments, or the right effects (indirectness)

There are not enough people in the studies (imprecision)

The studies are too different from each other (inconsistency)

We are missing some studies (publication bias)

The studies are not well done (risk of bias)

Raise certainty if:

There is a large result

The result is bigger when the dose of the treatment is higher

The problems with the study should have given a poor result, but a good result still happened

Step 3:

Decide on certainty of evidence or **how confident** we are that the result comes close to the truth.

HIGH ++++

MODERATE +++

LOW ++

VERY LOW +

Financial contribution: