

The background is a dark blue gradient with abstract white and light blue circular patterns. On the left side, there is a large circular scale with tick marks and numbers ranging from 140 to 260. Other smaller circular elements with arrows and dashed lines are scattered across the background.

# FACE COVERING PRACTICE AT GEORGIAN COURT UNIVERSITY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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# INTRODUCTION

- The first known outbreak of COVID-19 started in Wuhan, China in November 2019. As we move through the end of 2021, there are more than 200 million confirmed cases and 4.6 million lives that were lost to the virus (Moore, 2021).
- One of the most effective methods to reduce the spread of COVID-19 includes wearing a mask.
- This raised a lot of disputes as there are a variety of masks being sold and worn. Individuals decide to wear a specific mask based on comfort, attractiveness, or the most efficient way, effectiveness.
- This raised the question of how the people we are closest with and see daily, the Georgian Court University community members, practice mask-wearing.

# LITERATURE REVIEW: COVID-19

- COVID-19 is a virus which spreads from person to person and can be protected by wearing a mask, keeping distance, washing your hands, and getting vaccinated. However, there are not too many ways that the virus can be prevented.
- There are three COVID-19 vaccines available in the U.S. which are Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson. Each vaccine has its own effectivity rate showing how well it works at fighting the virus at different points.
- The rapid spread and harsh effects it have on the population caused the post-pandemic state society is in. We do not exactly know what makes a person susceptible to COVID-19 as not everyone who is exposed to it gets it and not everyone reacts the same way.
- Preventing the spread of this virus is crucial as there are no found methods of treatment yet. Not all parts of the world have available resources to protect against this virus. Wearing a mask is highly suggested by the CDC in preventing the spread.
- There is only so much everyone can do to remain safe, but there are necessary precautions that should be taken. As more studies are done, more information is learned about the virus.

# LITERATURE REVIEW: MASK GUIDELINES

- World Health Organization
- CDC- Center for Disease Control and Prevention
- New Jersey Health Department
- New York City Health
- Government of Canada

# LITERATURE REVIEW: MASK HISTORY

- Mask usage can date back to medical professionals of the early modern age treating patients suffering from the bubonic plague wearing beak-like masks. “These masks were supposedly filled with herbs such as clove or cinnamon as well as liquids and led to the term ‘beak-doctors’” (Byrne, 2006).
- Regarding masks with the proper nose and mouth coverings has been dated back to the German area, approximately between 1800-1900.
- The individuals responsible for the development of surgery and its many applications that followed (the surgical mask), were Joseph Lister and Louis Pasteur.
- It was in 1897 that a hygienist Carl Friedrich Flugge published his findings on “droplet infections”, related primarily to tuberculosis
- In the same year another hygienist, Johannes von Mikulicz, published research indicating that a face covering should be worn during surgical operations and during any contact with individuals who may be suffering from a respiratory infection.
- Towards the modern era, mouth coverings became more and more prevalent globally. A surgeon named Fritz König shared a note from his own handbook applying to general practitioners at the time.
- In the 1920’s is when the surgical mask was applied in both Germany and the USA. It was not until the year 1927 that a German surgeon by the name of Martin Kirschner, recommended that masks be worn outside of hospital settings in locations suffering from airborne illnesses.
- Only in the 1940s, washable and sterilizable masks gained acceptance in German and international surgery with only the number of gauze layers varying” (Sonntag E. Spring, 1937). Almost 20 years later, in the mid 1960’s, the use of disposable masks was introduced all over the world. It started in the USA. By the time the 1990’s struck, information regarding disposable

# LITERATURE REVIEW: MASK USAGE

- "Face mask usage among Young Polish People during Covid-19 Epidemic—An Evolving Scenario"-total number of cases exceeded 2.7 million people as of April 2021.
- "Appropriate usage of face masks to prevent sars-cov-2: Sharpening the Messaging amid the covid 19 pandemic"-Inappropriate mask wearing reduces the effectiveness of the masks and increases the chances of widespread effect
- "Societal values and mask usage for covid 19 control in the US"-Mask are effective in preventing illness and in asymptomatic transmission
- "Adolescents face mask usage and contact transmission in novel coronavirus"-Taiwan conducted a study on masks and how the virus latches onto the masks
- "Mask usage, social distancing, racial, and gender correlates of covid 19 vaccine intentions among adults in the US" -1043 respondents provided intentions on getting vaccine as well as using proper mask usage

# LITERATURE REVIEW: MASK EFFECTIVENESS

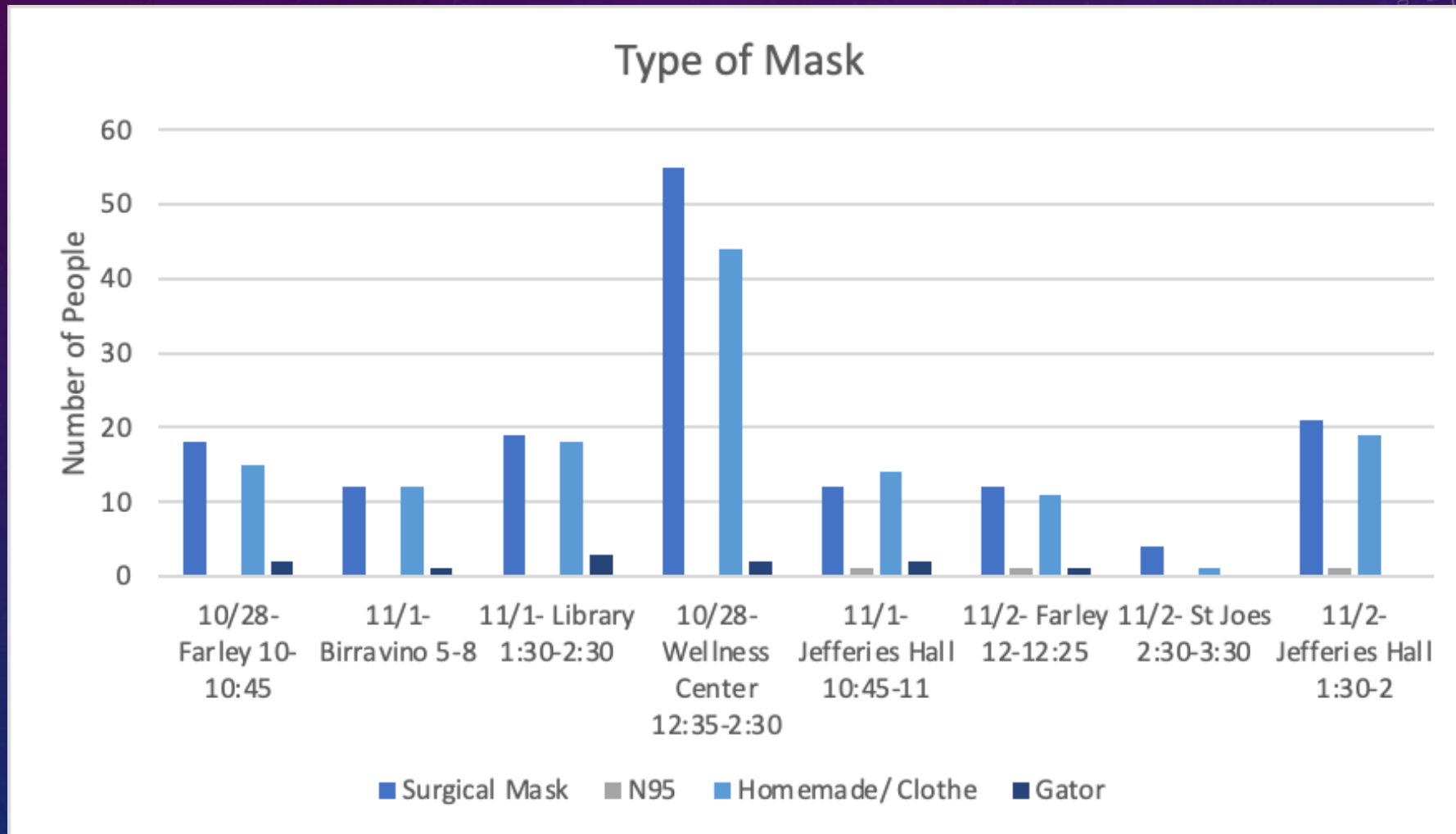
- Masks are effective, protecting the person wearing them, & reducing the likelihood of passing the disease to someone else
- When worn properly they help prevent the spread of COVID
- It is important that masks not be viewed as an alternative, but as a complement, to other public health control measures (including non-pharmaceutical interventions, such as social distancing, self-isolation etc.)

# METHODS

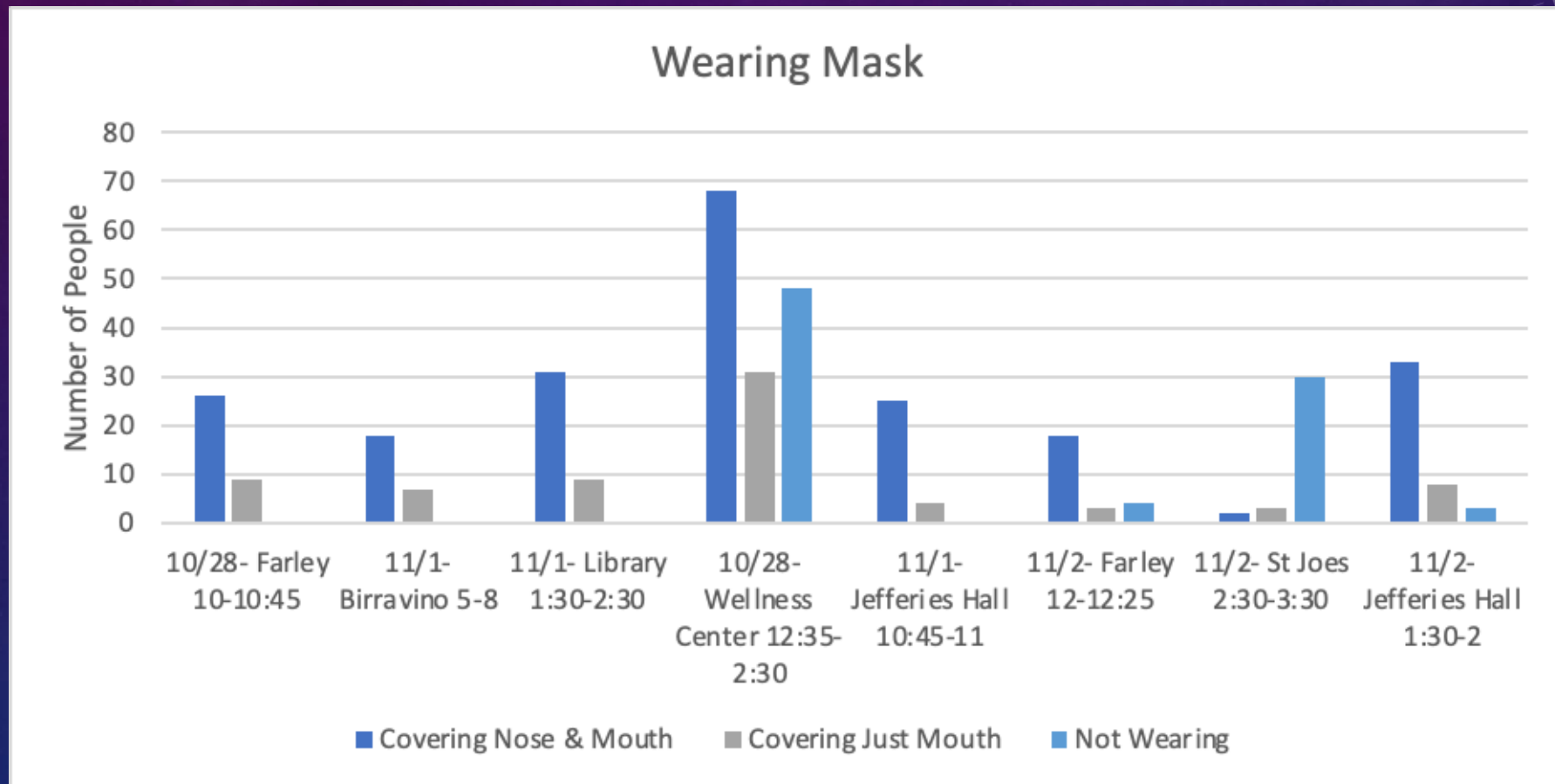
- Design: observational study on mask wearing at GCU
- Locations: Wellness center, Jeffries, Farley Center, the library and dorms
- After getting approved by the Georgian Court University's Internal Research Review Board (IRRB) (Appendix), six data collectors examined students and faculty as they passed by, usually collecting research by sitting by tables or chairs in hallways



# RESULTS



# RESULTS



# DISCUSSION

- Most common mask is the surgical mask while the least common mask is the gator
- Academic buildings and residential halls had expected results
- Mask wearing is expected to last since COVID has not ended
- Effective in preventing the spread of diseases & decreases the cases of COVID worldwide

# CONCLUSION

- The COVID-19 Pandemic has changed the way we live and normalized our usage of facemasks today. Throughout the information we have provided in this project we have learned of the importance of the facemask, currently existing guidelines, the effectiveness, history, and usage throughout the world. From its first use within only a surgical setting to it being worn every day in grocery stores, gyms, and shopping malls. We have come to learn that these new mask guidelines will be a staple in this world for some time. I believe the research that we have all accumulated has granted each one of us with the wisdom of an important and potentially life-saving piece of cloth. This now “fashion statement” has transcended throughout this pandemic and created a brand-new marketplace for what was once only worn by a doctor.

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