## Search strategy: The effect of PPE on verbal communication

**ID of request:** 27341  
**Date of request:** 31st January, 2021  
**Date of completion:** 4th February, 2021

**Sources searched**  
CINAHL (8)  
EMBASE (21)  
MEDLINE (27)

**Date range used** (5 years, 10 years): All   
**Limits used** (gender, article/study type, etc.): None   
**Search terms and notes** (full search strategy for database searches below):

Relevant natural language and controlled vocabulary terms were selected and combined. Thesaurus terms were adapted for different databases. Final result sets were de-duplicated and reviewed for relevance by the searcher, irrelevant results being discarded.

## B. Search History

|  | **Source** | **Criteria** | **Results** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | CINAHL | (PPE).ti,ab | 1940 |
| 2. | CINAHL | ("personal protective equipment").ti,ab | 2599 |
| 3. | CINAHL | "PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT"/ OR MASKS/ | 4316 |
| 4. | CINAHL | ("face mask\*").ti,ab | 1223 |
| 5. | CINAHL | ("surgical mask\*").ti,ab | 339 |
| 6. | CINAHL | ("ffp3 mask\*").ti,ab | 10 |
| 7. | CINAHL | (1 OR 2 OR 3 OR 4 OR 5 OR 6) | 7969 |
| 8. | CINAHL | ("verbal communication").ti,ab | 1283 |
| 9. | CINAHL | (speech OR speaking OR speak OR voice OR vocal).ti,ab | 82569 |
| 10. | CINAHL | "VERBAL BEHAVIOR"/ OR "COMMUNICATION BARRIERS"/ | 8910 |
| 11. | CINAHL | (8 OR 9 OR 10) | 91091 |
| 12. | CINAHL | (7 AND 11) | 121 |
| 13. | EMBASE | (PPE).ti,ab | 5692 |
| 14. | EMBASE | ("personal protective equipment").ti,ab | 5449 |
| 15. | EMBASE | ("face mask\*").ti,ab | 4899 |
| 16. | EMBASE | ("surgical mask\*").ti,ab | 780 |
| 17. | EMBASE | ("ffp3 mask\*").ti,ab | 32 |
| 18. | EMBASE | "PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT"/ OR "PROTECTIVE CLOTHING"/ OR "SURGICAL MASK"/ OR "SURGICAL HOOD"/ | 29887 |
| 19. | EMBASE | (13 OR 14 OR 15 OR 16 OR 17 OR 18) | 39683 |
| 20. | EMBASE | ("verbal communication").ti,ab | 3014 |
| 21. | EMBASE | (speech OR speaking OR speak OR voice OR vocal).ti,ab | 208146 |
| 22. | EMBASE | "VERBAL COMMUNICATION"/ OR CONVERSATION/ OR "ORAL COMMUNICATION"/ OR "VERBAL INTERACTION"/ | 40954 |
| 23. | EMBASE | (20 OR 21 OR 22) | 245026 |
| 24. | EMBASE | (19 AND 23) | 371 |
| 25. | Medline | (PPE).ti,ab | 4468 |
| 26. | Medline | ("personal protective equipment").ti,ab | 4810 |
| 27. | Medline | ("face mask\*").ti,ab | 3834 |
| 28. | Medline | ("surgical mask\*").ti,ab | 679 |
| 29. | Medline | ("ffp3 mask\*").ti,ab | 27 |
| 30. | Medline | "PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT"/ OR "HEAD PROTECTIVE DEVICES"/ OR MASKS/ OR "PROTECTIVE CLOTHING"/ | 16502 |
| 31. | Medline | (25 OR 26 OR 27 OR 28 OR 29 OR 30) | 25431 |
| 32. | Medline | ("verbal communication").ti,ab | 2118 |
| 33. | Medline | (speech OR speaking OR speak OR voice OR vocal).ti,ab | 162723 |
| 34. | Medline | COMMUNICATION/ OR "COMMUNICATION BARRIERS"/ OR "VERBAL BEHAVIOR"/ | 108137 |
| 35. | Medline | (32 OR 33 OR 34) | 263709 |
| 36. | Medline | (31 AND 35) | 329 |