

# Does UV actually kill COVID-19?

- ☀ Ultraviolet light comes from the sun.
- ☀ The most damaging short wavelengths (UVC) are filtered out by the ozone layer.
- ☀ Longer wavelengths (UVA and B) reach the earth's surface and contribute to skin tanning, ageing, burning and cancer (1).

All types of UV are known to inactivate a range of viruses, although UVC is best. UV inactivates viruses by modifying their genetic information.

## What do we know about COVID?

- ☀ COVID-19 may have had its most severe impact in countries experiencing relatively low UV levels and temperature (2).
- ☀ Summer in northern latitudes may help to reduce transmission.
- ☀ UV likely to play some role in reducing risk of transmission outside
  - ☀ along with social distancing and the dilution effect of fresh air).
- ☀ Artificial UVC can be used to reduce levels of virus in blood and on PPE.
- ☀ To the author's knowledge there are no examples of its practical use in the indoor medical settings, nor therapeutic use.
- ☀ Social distancing, disinfection with alcohol and detergent based disinfectants (eg 3) and hand washing remain the best ways to control transmission.



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