

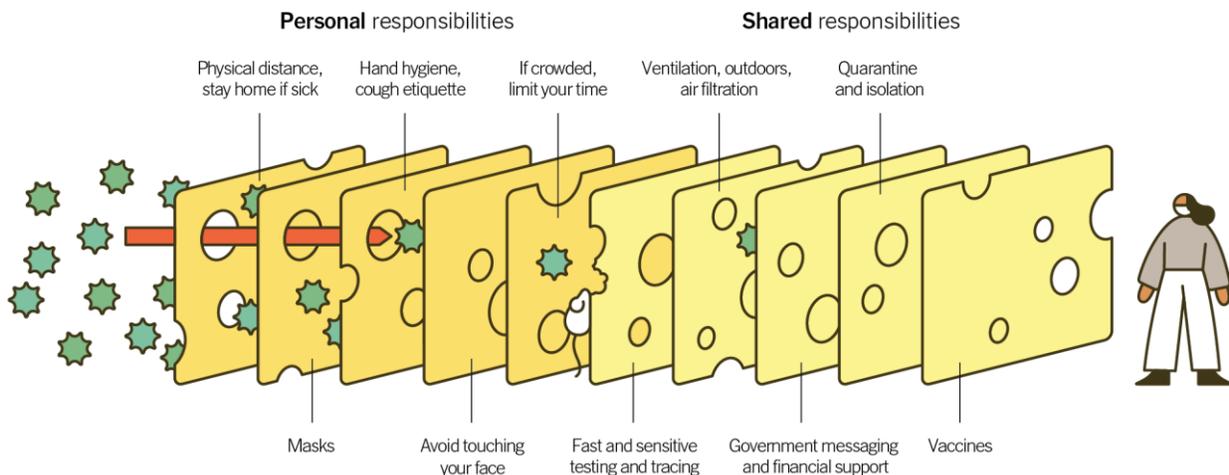


PSNS & IMF & TRFB have been using a **multi-layered approach** to protect workers since the beginning of the pandemic. All of these measures combined have been shown to work well in slowing the transmission of the Covid-19 virus. Part of this approach has included the “protective triad” which includes social distancing, masking and good hygiene (i.e. hand washing/hand sanitizers/cleaning). Employees are asked to conduct a daily self-assessment and to stay home and quarantine, when necessary, if they do not pass or are determined to have contracted the virus. All employees are encouraged to perform testing, when necessary, to determine if they’ve contracted the virus and report their status to their supervisors. Testing, reporting and contact tracing are additional measures that are used to monitor and control the rate of transmission within our workplace. Both vaccinated and unvaccinated employees are subject to the testing procedures and safety protocols. *Vaccines are a new layer* of protection added to help us reduce the spread. Vaccines are effective and can keep you from spreading the virus that causes Covid-19. They continue to be highly effective at preventing hospitalization and death among those that contract Covid-19. **All** of these layers together provide optimum protection in reducing the transmissibility of the virus within the workplace.

An illustration of this multi-layered approach is shown below. The Swiss cheese model of accident causation is widely used in risk analysis and management in a variety of organizations such as aviation safety, engineering, healthcare and in various emergency service organizations. The model works as a way to show how each specific layer (slices) reduce a particular threat by their unique defenses thus mitigating a certain risk. The holes represent certain weaknesses in the individual parts of the system and the slices represent defenses or barriers. It’s a great way to visually demonstrate how even with certain lapses and weaknesses in one layer of defense that may exist, when used together they do not allow risk to materialize provided the other defenses remain in place. This prevents a single point of failure by having only one layer of defense. IFPTE recently met with MK Fletcher, Health and Safety Specialist from AFL-CIO, and discussed the effectiveness of this model. Workplace safety standards, such as the ones we are using, are a very important part of slowing the transmission and it is important to recognize how all of these safety protocols work together.

Multiple Layers Improve Success

The Swiss Cheese Respiratory Pandemic Defense recognizes that no single intervention is perfect at preventing the spread of the coronavirus. Each intervention (layer) has holes.



Source: Adapted from Ian M. Mackay (virologydownunder.com) and James T. Reason. Illustration by Rose Wong