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Editorial

Virus which is More Deadly than World War Three - Coronaviruses (CoVs)

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Coronaviruses (CoVs) are the largest group of viruses belonging to the Nidovirales order, which includes Coronaviridae, Arteriviridae and Roniviridae families. The Coronavirinae comprise one of two subfamilies in the Coronaviridae family, with the other being the Torovirinae. The Coronavirinae are further subdivided into four groups, the alpha, beta, and gamma and delta coronaviruses. The viruses were initially sorted into these groups based on serology but are now divided by phylogenetic clustering.

What are the symptoms?

Doctors are learning new things about this virus every day. So far, we know that COVID-19 may not initially cause any symptoms for some people.

You may carry the virus for 2 days or up to 2 weeks trusted source before you notice symptoms.

Some common symptoms that have been specifically linked to COVID-19 include:

- Shortness of breath
- Having a cough that gets more severe over time
- A low-grade fever that gradually increases in temperature.

These symptoms may become more severe in some people. Call emergency medical services if you or someone you care for have any of the following symptoms:

- Trouble breathing
- Blue lips or face
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- Confusion
- Excessive drowsiness.

The full list of symptoms is still being investigated.

COVID-19 versus the flu

Here are some common symptoms of the flu:

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- Cough
- · Runny or stuffy nose
- Sneezing
- · Sore Throat
- Fever
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Chills
- Body Aches.

What causes coronaviruses?

Coronaviruses are zoonotic. This means they first develop in animals before developing in humans.

For the virus to pass from animal to humans, a person has to come into close contact with an animal that carries the infection.

Once the virus develops in people, coronaviruses can be spread from person to person through respiratory droplets. This is a technical name for the wet stuff that moves through the air when you cough or sneeze.

The viral material hangs out in these droplets and can be breathed into the respiratory tract (your windpipe and lungs), where the virus can then lead to an infection.

The 2019 coronavirus hasn't been definitively linked to a specific animal.

Researchers believe that the virus may have been passed from bats to another animal - either snakes or pangolins - and then transmitted to humans. This transmission likely occurred in the open food market in Wuhan, China.

Who's at increased risk?

You're at high risk for contracting SARS-CoV-2 if you come into contact with someone who's carrying it, especially if you've been exposed to their saliva or been near them when they've coughed or sneezed.

Without taking proper prevention measures, you're also at high risk if you:

- Live with someone who has contracted the virus
- Are providing home care for someone who has contracted the virus
- Have an intimate partner who has contracted the virus.

Older people and people with certain health conditions have a higher risk for severe complications if they contract the virus. These health conditions include:

- Lung conditions, such as COPD and asthma
- Certain heart conditions
- · Immune system conditions, such as HIV
- · Cancer that requires treatment
- Severe obesity
- Other health conditions, if not well-controlled, such as diabetes, kidney disease, or liver disease.

How are coronaviruses diagnosed?

COVID-19 can be diagnosed similarly to other conditions caused by viral infections: using a blood, saliva, or tissue sample. However, most tests use a cotton swab to retrieve a sample from the inside of your nostrils.

What treatments are available?

There's currently no treatment specifically approved for COVID-19, and no cure for an infection, although treatments and vaccines are currently under study. In some cases, experimental treatments are tested to see how effective they are. Examples of therapies used for these illnesses include:

- Antiviral or retroviral medications
- Breathing support, such as mechanical ventilation
- Steroids to reduce lung swelling
- Blood plasma transfusions.

$What are the possible complications from \ COVID-19?$

The most serious complication of a SARS-CoV-2 infection is a type of pneumonia that's been called 2019 novel coronavirus-infected pneumonia (NCIP).

Results from a 2020 study trusted source of 138 people admitted into hospitals in Wuhan, China, with NCIP found that 26 percent of those admitted had severe cases and needed to be treated in the intensive care unit (ICU).

About 4.3 percent of these people who were admitted to the ICU died from this type of pneumonia. It should be noted that people who were admitted to the ICU were on average older and had more underlying health conditions than people who didn't go to the ICU.

So far, NCIP is the only complication specifically linked to the 2019 coronavirus. Researchers have seen the following complications in people who have developed COVID-19:

- Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)
- Irregular heart rate (arrhythmia)
- Cardiovascular shock
- Severe muscle pain (myalgia)
- Fatigue
- Heart damage or heart attack.

How to prevent coronaviruses

The best way to prevent the spread of infection is to avoid or limit contact with people who are showing symptoms of COVID-19 or any respiratory infection.

The next best thing you can do is practice good hygiene and social distancing to prevent bacteria and viruses from spreading.

Prevention tips

- Wash your hands frequently for at least 20 seconds at a time with warm water and soap. How long is 20 seconds? About as long as it takes to sing your "ABCs".
- Don't touch your face, eyes, nose, or mouth when your hands are dirty.
- Don't go out if you're feeling sick or have any cold or flu symptoms.
- Stay at least 3 feet Trusted Source (1 meter) away from anyone who is coughing or sneezing.
- Cover your mouth with the inside of your elbow whenever you sneeze or cough. Throw away any tissues you use right away.
- Clean any objects you touch a lot. Use disinfectants on objects like phones, computers, utensils, dishware and doorknobs.

What's the outlook?

First and foremost, don't panic. You don't need to wear a mask or be quarantined unless you suspect you have contracted the virus or have a confirmed test result.

Following simple hand washing and social distancing guidelines may help protect you from being exposed to the virus.

The 2019 coronavirus probably seems scary when you read the news about new deaths, quarantines, and travel bans.

Stay calm and follow your doctor's instructions if you're diagnosed with COVID-19 so you can recover and help prevent it from spreading.

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