

CORONAVIRUS

SHOULD WE BE WORRIED?

WHAT IS THE CORONAVIRUS?

Rising numbers of infections. Conflicting opinions. Expanding economic fallout. As health officials warn that the spread of the coronavirus in the U.S. "will happen," all we can do is wait.

IS IT NEW?

Although coronaviruses themselves have been around for awhile, this is a new strain called "COVID-19".

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

The coronavirus is common in many species of animals. These viruses can spread to people, who can then pass it to others.

IS IT DANGEROUS?

Depends on the strain. In more severe cases, like COVID-19, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and, in rare cases, death. Older people and those with pre-existing medical conditions are at greater risk of severity.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Person-to-person, similar to how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread — close contact with an infected person. It's currently unclear if a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or their eyes.

CAN SOMEONE SPREAD THE DISEASE WITHOUT BEING SICK?

Possibly, but people are thought to be most contagious when they are the sickest.

WHAT ABOUT ANTIBIOTICS?

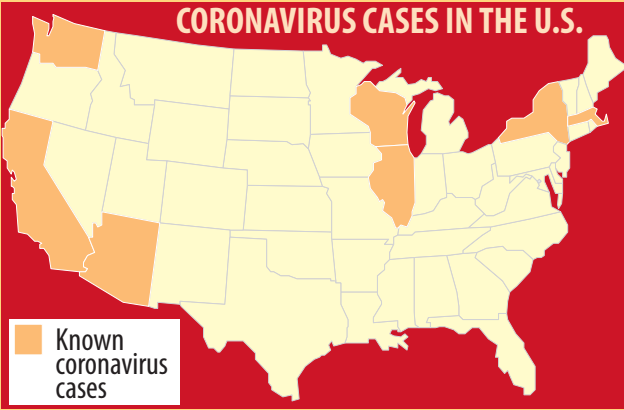
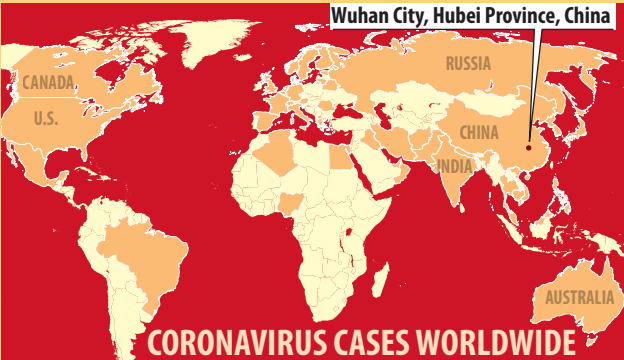
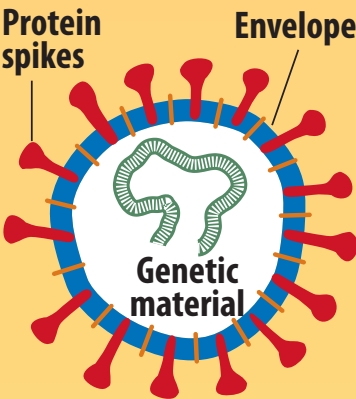
Don't bother. The COVID-19 is a virus, and is not affected by antibiotics.

IF YOU CATCH THE DISEASE, WHAT ARE YOUR CHANCES OF SURVIVAL?

We don't really know yet. The WHO estimated the death rate at about 2.3% so far, which could easily change.

WHY IS IT CALLED "CORONAVIRUS"?

Coronaviruses are a large group of viruses consisting of an envelope containing genetic material surrounded by protein spikes that create a crown or "corona" around the virus.



HOW WOULD I KNOW IF I GOT IT?

There's a test called PCR that can detect the virus' genetic fingerprint.

IS THERE A VACCINE?

Not yet, but vaccines are in development. Right now, we can only treat the symptoms.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Illnesses have ranged from mild (which are most cases) to severe. Symptoms include fever, coughing and shortness of breath within 2-14 days of exposure. More severe cases can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.



PROTECTING YOURSELF

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue away.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.



BEST DEFENSE: SOAP AND WATER

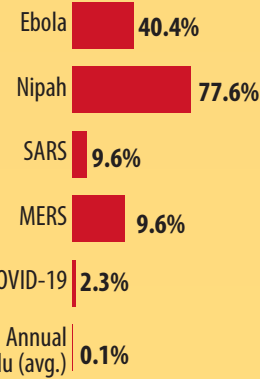
Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.

WHAT ABOUT FACEMASKS?

CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear facemasks to protect themselves for fear that will cause a shortage of masks for those who do need them: people who show symptoms of the coronavirus. This will allow them to protect others — and health workers who take care of patients in close settings.

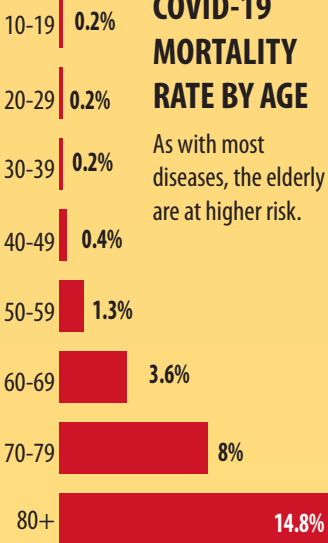


COVID-19 DEATH RATE COMPARED TO OTHER MAJOR VIRUSES



Source: Business Insider; CDC, LiveScience

COVID-19 MORTALITY RATE BY AGE



Source: Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Don't forget the flu

Coronavirus vs. this season's flu virus

We've been worrying ourselves over the coronavirus. Meanwhile the flu, which comes around every year, affects us much more.

Source: CDC and the WHO

NATIONWIDE: Illnesses

Coronavirus	76
Flu	32 million

Hospitalizations

Coronavirus	62
Flu	310,000

Deaths

Coronavirus	2
Flu	18,000

NORTH CAROLINA DEATHS

Coronavirus	0
Flu	115