Coronavirus, prevalence and Prevention

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Corona Virus history

• Human coronaviruses, first characterized in the 1960s, are responsible for a substantial proportion of upper respiratory tract infections in children.

• Since 2003, at least 5 new human coronaviruses have been identified, including the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) coronavirus, which caused significant morbidity and mortality.
Corona Virus history

• In 2002, SARS spread virtually unchecked to 37 countries, causing global panic, infecting more than 8,000 people and killing more than 750.

• Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) appears to be less easily passed from human to human, but has greater lethality, killing 35% of about 2,500 people who have been infected.
Bird flu. SARS. China coronavirus. Is history repeating itself?

- The novel coronavirus, which health officials have designated 2019-nCoV, belongs to the same family of viruses as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), both of which have led to deadly outbreaks in the recent past.
SARS: Cumulative Number of Reported Probable* Cases
Total number of cases: 3547 as of 19 April 2003, 18:00 GMT+2

*Due to differences in the case definitions being used at a national level, probable cases are reported by all countries except the United States of America, which is reporting suspect cases under investigation.

Data Source: World Health Organization
Map Production: Public Health Mapping Team
Communicable Diseases (CDS)
World Health Organization, April 2003
How Wuhan Coronavirus is different?

• Infectious disease experts do not yet know exactly how contagious or deadly the Wuhan coronavirus is.

• Compared to SARS and MERS, The Wuhan coronavirus has spread strikingly fast: While the MERS outbreak took about two and a half years to infect 1,000 people, and SARS took roughly four months, the novel coronavirus reached that figure in just 48 days.
Coronavirus Map: Tracking the Spread of the Outbreak

Confirmed cases: 43,138
Confirmed deaths: 1,018

The New York Times
10th February 2020
Wuhan Coronavirus figure
The current figures indicate that the Wuhan coronavirus is significantly less deadly than its relatives.

Although the current outbreak has led to over 1000 deaths, mostly in China, its fatality rate is around 2 percent; in comparison, the fatality rate for SARS was around 10 percent, and the rate for MERS was around 35 percent.
How big the outbreak could be!

- The true number of cases is almost certainly far larger than the number that have been officially confirmed by lab tests.

- Thousands of people in Hubei province, where the outbreak began, are suspected of having been infected but have not been officially diagnosed.
Mode of transmission

- Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted between animals and people.

- Person-to-person among close contacts (about 6 feet). mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

- It’s currently unclear if a person can get 2019-nCoV by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it.
How to prevent Corona Virus

Population at risk:

• Older people

• and those with underlying illnesses, such as diabetes or high blood pressure.
How to prevent Corona Virus

W - U - H - A - N

Wash hands
Use mask properly
Have temperature checked regularly
Avoid large crowd
Never touch your face with unclean hands
How to prevent Corona Virus

• Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

• Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the bin.
How to prevent Corona Virus

• Perform frequent hand-washing, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment.
How to prevent Corona Virus

- Cook food thoroughly and handle it properly during preparation.

- Avoid close contact and unprotected with live or dead farm or wild animals.
How to prevent Corona Virus

• Keep up to date with local health advice before and during your travel
Whom you should believe?

• "It is important to know how to distinguish between the advice and information coming from expert public health authorities and scientists, versus the deliberate misinformation and conspiracy theories that are instigating unnecessary fear."
References

  • [https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/about/transmission.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/about/transmission.html)
  • [https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus)
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