#COVID19GA

COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE

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Coronavirus: a global emergency ?

It's all over the news: the Coronavirus epidemic is spreading. Is it a true, global threat, or are we all overreacting? First some facts. The Coronavirus was first detected in the city of Wuhan, China, a few months ago. Since then it has spread to fifty countries.

The Coronavirus produces a disease called Covid-19, which is very similar to the ordinary flu, with symptoms such as fever, coughing and sneezing. Although the flu can also be deadly, Covid-19 is more dangerous. So far some 82,000 people have caught it, and nearly 3,000 died.

It must be noted that most of its victims were people already in poor health,,inn other words, a healthy person who contracts the virus will most likely recover from it. Indeed, some 80% of infected people report mild or no symptoms at all.
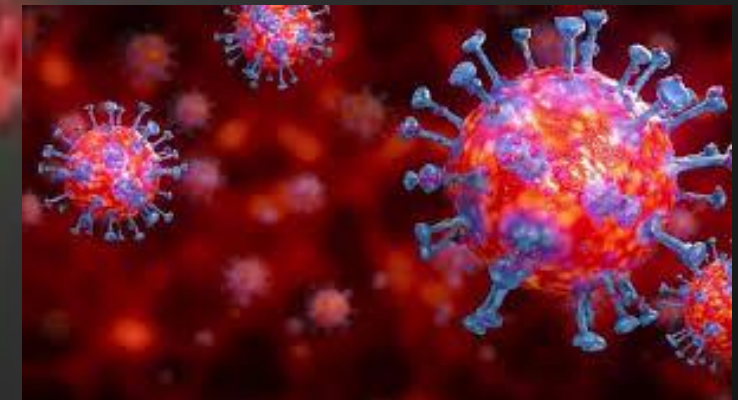
Reactions around the world

One of the problems of the Coronavirus is that, like the viruses that cause the flu, it can spread quickly, through the air, person to person. Sometimes it's hard to detect, just because its effects are so similar to those of the flu.

The ways to deal with this epidemic vary around the world. Public statements go from that of US president Donald Trump who claimed that the danger to Americans "remains very low," to Australian prime minister Scott Morrison who said that the risk of a pandemic was "very much upon us."

In the UK, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said that the government is planning for "all eventualities" if the number of Coronavirus cases rise. For sure, many countries are taking measures against the spread of the virus, such as quarantining people from affected areas, cancelling public events or shutting down schools.

Reactions in Italy

The growth of coronavirus infections in Italy continues to rise. Total cases jumped to 59,138, with an increase of 5,560 in just one day (however lower than yesterday's record figure which settled at 6,557). Angelo Borrelli in the briefing with the press for tariff on the point on the epidemic.

The Italians forced to stay at home to face the Coronavirus emergency, is the music that rises from the balconies and windows of the houses to reach the world with flash mobs

What needs to be done

These measures cannot stop the virus, but they are useful in slowing the contagion. This is very important because it allows the health care systems to deal with this emergency . There are not enough hospitals if too many people get sick at the same time. Correct information is also very important.

For example, the UK is launching a mass public information campaign. Informing the public with solid science and good advice is a way to prevent mass panic and irrational behaviour. It is a problem, for example, if people hoard goods, medicines and surgical masks.

It is more helpful, as the World Health Organization recommends, to take simple precautions [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/feb/25/how-to-protect-yourself-fromcoronavirus] to reduce exposure and transmission such as avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth and washing your hands regularly

Side effects

What cannot be overlooked about the Coronavirus outbreak are its side effects. What seems to be spreading faster than the virus is the fear of it. Some countries have stopped traveling to and trading with China and other countries affected by the virus. As a consequence, many businesses that rely on tourism or international trade are in trouble.

Some analysts warn that the Coronavirus could trigger a new financial crisis [https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/feb/27/coronavirus-could-trigger-damage-on-scale-of-2008financial-crisis-covid-19].

This irrational fear is also producing another, deadly virus: racism. In many places around the world Chinese people are accused of spreading the disease. There are also many reported cases of discrimination towards infected individuals. Finally, it should be noted that the Coronavirus is distracting people from other far more deadly problems, such as pollution, climate change and international conflicts. It's time to face the Coronavirus epidemic with rationality and the right perspective.

10 rules to avoid contagion

1 Wash your hands often

2 Avoid close contact with people suffering from acute respiratory infections

3 Do not touch your eyes, nose and mouth with your hands

4 Cover your mouth and nose if you sneeze or cough

5 do not take antiviral drugs or antibiotics unless prescribed by your doctor

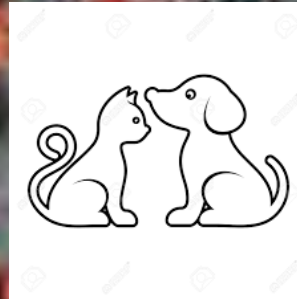6 Clean the surfaces with chlorine or alcohol disinfectants

7 Use the mask only if you suspect you are sick or if you care for sick people

8 Made in china products and packages received from China are not dangerous

9 Pets do not spread the new coronavirus

10 contact 1500 if you have a fever or cough and you're back from China for less than 14 days

#I stay at home
#everything will be fine