

COVID19 Town Hall and Q&A

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Bronx and Brooklyn Health & Housing
Consortium

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Lee Isaacsohn MD
Janian Medical Care

What is 2019 novel Coronavirus?

- A brand new virus from the Coronavirus family
- Very similar to the SARS and MERS viruses
- In the same family as 4 viruses that cause the common cold

Coronavirus vs COVID19

- The virus's official name is "SARS-COV-2" but it is also often referred to as "novel-coronavirus" "2019 coronavirus" or just "coronavirus"
- The disease caused by this virus is called "COVID19"

Where and When did it start?

- Originated in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China
- First reported by the WHO on December 31st
- Has since spread all over the world
- First confirmed case in USA: January 20th in Washington State

How does COVID19 compare to the flu?

- The symptoms very similar to the flu:
 - Fever
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Sore Throat
 - Muscle aches
 - Fatigue
- Both diseases can cause a pneumonia (lower lung infection) and both can kill people
- Both disease can be mild for some and severe requiring the ICU for others

How long does COVID19 last?

- People with mild to moderate COVID19 have symptoms for 7-10 days
- People with more severe disease require hospitalization and even ICU level care, they can be ill up to a month sometimes more

How is coronavirus spread?

- It is spread by respiratory droplet
 - Think of this as the cloud a person makes when the sneeze
- It is NOT airborne spread
- The virus is also found in feces but it is currently unknown if it spreads by fecal-oral route
- It does NOT spread through, urine, semen, vaginal fluids,

It is also spread by surface touching

- Those respiratory droplets fall out the air after a few hours and land on surfaces where they can live up to 3 days if unbothered

How contagious is it?

- Pretty contagious
- Current estimates are that for every 1 person sick with COVID19 they will infect between 2-3 uninfected people
- This makes it more contagious than the flu where every 1 person sick with the flu will infect 1.3 uninfected people

What is the case fatality rate?

- This is still be calculated
- This changes dramatically based on age and whether or not a person has a pre-existing medical condition
- The current case fatality rate in NYC is 0.07% to 8.2% depending on age group

Who is most at risk?

- Everyone aged 70 and older
- Everyone aged 50 and older with a pre-existing medical condition:
 - Diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, asthma, COPD, people who are immunosuppressed (cancer, HIV, autoimmune conditions on medications)

How can we stop the spread?

- Staying home as much as possible
- Social distancing when outside by staying 6 feet or more from other people's invisible germ cloud
- Washing hands often with soap and water or an alcohol based hand sanitizer which has >60% alcohol
- Cleaning frequently touched surfaces often

Is there a treatment or a vaccine?

- There are no approved treatments at this time
- People with mild to moderate disease who do not need hospital care just need to rest and treat their symptoms, for example take tylenol for their fever
- There are currently some experimental treatments being investigated for those with severe COVID19
- There is no current vaccine, but trials underway around the world to develop one

Questions?

Please keep washing
your hands

Thank you!