

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) And Its Impact

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Abstract: COVID-19 is an infectious and communicable disease that was originated from China. The focus of this review is to give brief information on the disease which has threatened the whole world.

I. INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 is not just affecting a particular country but the whole world. This disease was first identified in 'Wuhan', capital of China's Hubei province in December 2019. It has spread globally resulting in the on-going 'Coronavirus Pandemic' 2019-20. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared coronavirus, a pandemic on 11 March 2020.

A. DEFINITION

The disease is also known as coronavirus disease 2019, coronavirus, 2019 - n CoV acute respiratory disease, Novel coronavirus pneumonia and as it has spread over the whole world, now it is also known as coronavirus pandemic. COVID-19 is an infectious disease that mainly affects the respiratory system.

B. CAUSES

The cause of coronavirus disease is 'Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)'. It can result into kidney failure, pneumonia, viral sepsis and respiratory distress. The virus spreads by 'small droplet infection' i.e. by coughing, sneezing and talking. The virus can survive upto 72 hours. It may also cause by touching contaminated surface.

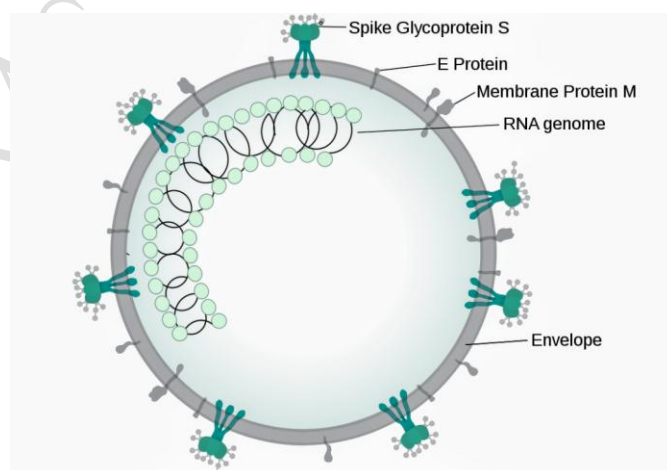


Figure 1: SARS-CoV virion

C. SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

The symptoms of this disease includes fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore-throat, pneumonia, diarrhoea, muscle and joint pain, abdominal pain, chills, nasal congestion, fatigue, sputum production and headache. The disease is most contagious during the first three days after symptom onset. In China, the cases were only limited to palpitations and chest tightness.

D. DIAGNOSIS

The disease can be diagnosed by a method called real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) which is done on respiratory samples obtained by a 'nasopharyngeal swab' or sputum can also be used. Chest X-

rays, blood tests, CT scans of the chest can be done in early stages.

E. PREVENTION

The preventive measures are taken to reduce the chances of infection, as it's been well said that 'Prevention is better than cure'. Washing hands properly with soap, using hand sanitizer, maintaining social distance, covering mouth while coughing and sneezing, etc. are some of the preventive measures that one can take. Surfaces can be decontaminated using 62-71% ethanol (alcohol used in spirits), 50-100% isopropanol (isopropyl alcohol), 0.1% sodium hydrochlorite (bleach), 0.5% hydrogen peroxide and 0.2-7.5% povidone-iodine.

II. IMPACT ON ECONOMY

The government of China has been criticized by the United States. They referred corona virus as 'Chinese Virus' or 'Wuhan Virus'. Many outlets have claimed that this was China's propaganda. Below the impact of corona virus has been mentioned country wise:

- ✓ **INDIA** - in India, farmers, informal sectors, hotels, airlines are facing a great loss. Many companies in India such as Ultratech cement, Tata motors, Aditya Birla group, Hindustan Unilever have suspended major operations. Upto 53% of businesses are facing loss, having estimated loss of rupees 3000 crore. There is a huge fall in Sensex of 4000 points and 1150 points of NIFTY. Former RBI Chief Raghuram Rajan said that Coronavirus pandemic in India is "the greatest emergency since independence".
- The government of India has announced a number of measures to handle the situation from funds, food security to healthcare sectors. Amazon and flipkart have announced to deliver only the essential items.
- ✓ **IRAN** - Iranian government has too affected by the coronavirus pandemic. More than two dozen parliament members are suffering.
- ✓ **CHINA** - Factories, retailers, restaurants and theatres are closed. Tourism has been hit hard. CNN reported that "people have been outcasts in their own country and have been placed under quarantine measures".
- ✓ **HONG KONG** - Hong Kong has seen protested against China as entries of Chinese travellers are restricted. The airline had reduced flights to China by 90% and overall flights by 30%.
- ✓ **JAPAN** - Japan sold out of masks on 3 February 2020. 2020 summer Olympics which was scheduled to take place in Tokyo, is starting at the end of July. The Tokyo committee have been monitoring the outbreaks in Japan.



Figure 2: shelves in a pharmacy in Japan sold out of masks

- ✓ **ITALY** - Several cases of corona virus patients were found in Italy. Around 15113 patients are suffering and upto 1016 death cases are reported.
- ✓ **UNITED STATES** - U.S stocks are on the largest loss since 2008. All championship events throughout all sports would have been cancelled until 2020-21.

III. IMPACT ON EDUCATION

The schools and colleges were declared closed on 25 march 2020. This has affected 1.5 billion students worldwide. Overseas students who were enrolled at Chinese universities have been returning home and majority of schools and universities have extended their annual holidays.

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