



## Warning- Prepare for Coronavirus

### Description

**Editor's note: This article has been updated. Please scroll down to the bottom of this article for the update.**

**Please don't anybody panic**, but there are certain precautions we may be wise to take regarding the coronavirus. We don't have a crystal ball, so I am not saying the coronavirus will come to Hot Springs Village.

Ken Phillis forwarded this email to me this morning regarding the coronavirus. It may be wise to heed this advice. After all, what can it hurt?

### Ken Phillis received the following email:

Dear Colleagues,

As some of you may recall, when I was a professor of pathology at the University of California San Diego, I was one of the first molecular virologists in the world to work on coronaviruses (the 1970s). I was the first to demonstrate the number of genes the virus contained. Since then, I have kept up with the coronavirus field and its multiple clinical transfers into the human population (e.g., SARS, MERS), from different animal sources.

The current projections for its expansion in the US are only probable, due to continued insufficient worldwide data, but it is most likely to be widespread in the US by mid to late March and April.

Here are what I have done and the precautions that I take and will take. These are the same precautions I currently use during our influenza seasons, except for the mask and gloves:

### No handshaking

1) **NO HANDSHAKING!** Use a fist bump, slight bow, elbow bump, etc.

### Use knuckle to touch

2) **Use ONLY your knuckle to touch** light switches, elevator buttons, etc.. Lift the gasoline dispenser with a paper towel or use a disposable glove.

### Don't open doors with hands

3) **Open doors with your closed fist or hip** – do not grasp the handle with your hand, unless there is no other way to open the door. Especially important on bathroom and post office/commercial doors.

### Use disinfectant wipes

4) **Use disinfectant wipes at the stores** when they are available, including wiping the handle and child seat in grocery carts.

### Wash hands and use hand sanitizer

5) **Wash your hands** with soap for 10-20 seconds and/or use a **greater than 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer whenever you return home from ANY activity that involves locations where other people have been.**

### Keep sanitizer at home entrances and in vehicles

6) **Keep a bottle of sanitizer available at each of your home's entrances.** AND in your car for use after getting gas or touching other contaminated objects when you can't immediately wash your hands.

### Discard disposable tissues after use and wear latex or nitrile latex gloves when out

7) **If possible, cough or sneeze into a disposable tissue and discard.** Use your elbow only if you have to. The clothing on your elbow will contain infectious virus that can be passed on for up to a week or more!

What I have stocked in preparation for the pandemic spread to the US:

1) **Latex or nitrile latex disposable gloves** for use when going shopping, using the gasoline pump, and all other outside activity when you come in contact with contaminated areas.

### Coronavirus is spread by sneezing & coughing

Note: This virus is **spread in large droplets by coughing and sneezing.** This means that the air will not infect you! BUT all the surfaces where these droplets land are infectious for about a week on average – everything that is associated with infected people will be contaminated and potentially infectious. The virus is on surfaces and you will not be infected unless your unprotected face is directly coughed or sneezed upon.

## Coronavirus infects lungs

This virus only has cell receptors for lung cells (**it only infects your lungs**) The **only way for the virus to infect you is through your nose or mouth via your hands or an infected cough or sneeze onto or into your nose or mouth.**

## Use disposable surgical masks

2) Stock up now with **disposable surgical masks** and use them to prevent you from touching your nose and/or mouth (We touch our nose/mouth 90X/day without knowing it!). This is the only way this virus can infect you – it is lung-specific. The mask will not prevent the virus in a direct sneeze from getting into your nose or mouth – it is only to keep you from touching your nose or mouth.

## Stock up now!

3) **Stock up now with hand sanitizers and latex/nitrile gloves** (get the appropriate sizes for your family). The hand sanitizers must be alcohol-based and greater than 60% alcohol to be effective.

4) **Stock up now with zinc lozenges.** These lozenges have been proven to be effective in blocking coronavirus (and most other viruses) from multiplying in your throat and nasopharynx. Use as directed several times each day when you begin to feel ANY “cold-like” symptoms beginning. It is best to lie down and let the lozenge dissolve in the back of your throat and nasopharynx. Cold-Eeze lozenges is one brand available, but there are other brands available.

## This pandemic may not be reasonably contained

I, as many others do, hope that this pandemic will be reasonably contained, BUT I personally do not think it will be. Humans have never seen this snake-associated virus before and have no internal defense against it.

## NO drugs or vaccines available this year

Tremendous worldwide efforts are being made to understand the molecular and clinical virology of this virus. Unbelievable molecular knowledge about the genomics, structure, and virulence of this virus has already been achieved. BUT, there will be **NO drugs or vaccines available this year** to protect us or limit the infection within us. **Only symptomatic support is available.**

I hope these personal thoughts will be helpful during this potentially catastrophic pandemic. You are welcome to share.

Good luck to all of us!

[James Robb, MD FCAP](#)

Information forwarded by [Ken Phillis](#)

**Updated information from the Arkansas Department of Health. The first presumed positive case of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) was diagnosed in Pine Bluff, Arkansas on 3/11/2020. The Governor**

has declared a Public Health Emergency. There is no need for us to panic, but we should remain watchful and also continue to be diligent with our handwashing and other safeguards. Thanks!

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