



## **Additional questions and answers from the 3/24/20 webinar**

### **How was it spread from animal to human?**

The novel coronavirus is known to infect bats, and that is likely where the first exposure to humans occurred (in the live animal market in Wuhan). Then human to human transmission began.

### **How long can the virus live on surfaces or objects?**

Days on stainless steel or other nonporous surfaces, hours on more porous surfaces - cloth, cardboard.

### **What about disposable gloves? Helpful?**

Only if you are caring for ill people or frequently touching surfaces known to be contaminated which cannot be cleaned.

### **What if you have a cough only that was previously diagnosed as bronchitis, but the cough is still occurring and there are no other symptoms? Believe it is allergy related.**

Does not meet the criteria for COVID-19.

### **I understand that nausea and diarrhea are added symptoms is that correct?**

Possible in some cases, but not the most common symptoms.

### **I heard that you can be tested if you have been in direct contact with a person diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus as well as fever, shortness of breath, chest pain and cough. I also heard you must have nausea or vomiting and diarrhea. Is this correct?**

Fever, cough, shortness of breath in someone who had contact with a COVID-19 patient would meet criteria for testing. If in direct contact to COVID-19 without symptoms, would be advised to isolate and monitor symptoms for 14 days from exposure. Vomiting and diarrhea not required symptoms.

### **So, a child with a fever for a day or two followed by a lingering wet cough would not be tested?**

Likely not if the child is recovering well and resolved fever. COVID-19 typically has a dry cough.

### **Can you speak more about the quarantine period? How long should that be? If two weeks, and hopefully not sick, what happens after that?**

14 days from exposure/travel if that occurred. 7 days from onset of symptoms or 3 days after symptoms completely resolve (no medications required for control of temperature).

### **If you are coughing and have a sore throat, but no fever is this more of sinusitis or could it be COVID-19? If sinusitis, should I go to a clinic vs. seeing my doctor?**

Sinusitis can be treated using a telehealth option. Sore throat not a typical symptom of COVID-19, and fever is very typical.

**How are PCP's able to tell the difference in pneumonia that is related to Covid-19 or regular pneumonia if only a chest x-ray has been given?**

Clinical assessment - vital signs, breath sounds (physical exam), and appearance on chest x-ray.

**What are the two medications mentioned earlier?**

Plaquenil and Zithromax (only under physician's care).

**If a family member gets tested does the entire household have to quarantine at home while waiting for results?**

Not unless symptomatic or if test is positive. Person being tested should minimize contact with others. Social distancing for all.

**In what way are hydroxychloroquine and azithromycin considered effective in treatment of SARS-COV2?**

I am not certain of mechanism of action.

**Why are children infrequently becoming severely ill?**

That is not well understood at this point.

**How much longer do you think this will last?**

Difficult to say - for China was about 3 months, we must watch countries with a case curve like the US.

**How long do you see the country needing to practice social distancing to get this virus under control?**

May be up to several weeks - this depends upon all of us and what our compliance with social distancing does to the curve.

**If I am due for a second dose of Hep A, Hep B, or Shingles, is this still safe to do? Should I go to the pharmacy and receive that vaccine?**

Okay for immunizations as offered by your health professional.

**Can you speak about the risks of COVID-19 for pregnant people? There has been conflicting information about whether pregnant people are a high-risk group or not.**

The assumption is yes - special guidance exists for prevention in pregnant women.

**I heard that the virus is now staying on surfaces for 17 days according to the testing on the cruise ship. Is this true?**

Varying reports of the novel coronavirus's ability to remain viable on hard surfaces, but it is known to be days.

**If I'm walking in the parking lot of the grocery store and someone has the virus and I just walked where they just walked can I catch the virus?**

If that person is infected and has coughed or sneezed into the air it is possible to inhale respiratory droplets they release

**Is there any reliable way to distinguish standard flu symptoms from cv-19 symptoms?**

Here is an article to review: [https://www.medicinenet.com/covid-19\\_vs\\_flu\\_vs\\_cold/article.htm](https://www.medicinenet.com/covid-19_vs_flu_vs_cold/article.htm)

**When you work servicing dry wound care vacs and come home after a day of work is there a chance this virus can stay on your clothes?**

Not if you have used proper PPE required for the wound care. If not, shower immediately and launder your clothing.

**How to properly use gloves? If you go to a store and touch everything...and then touch your purse or personal belongings...can you catch COVID-19?**

If you touch contaminated surfaces with gloves, you can transfer the virus and other germs to other surfaces.

**If you self-quarantine, do you need to wait the entire 14 days if no symptoms develop?**

Yes, that is the current guidance.

**I went to my doctor's office 2 weeks ago and the nurse was coughing and wasn't wearing a mask and she administered the flu shot. Should I be tested or worried?**

Not worried, no reason for test. Even on the remote chance that there was an at-risk exposure, you are outside the 14-day window.

**So, it would not live in the air?**

Doesn't live in the air, but respiratory droplets can hang in the air for short periods.

**I was tested today for coronavirus, as I traveled for 2 weeks in California and Nevada, just returning March 15<sup>th</sup>. What is the incubation period or when symptoms appear if you were infected?**

Onset 2-14 days, and most develop symptoms at about 5 days.

**Are local Health Departments following up on residents that have returned home via airlines from other countries or the NY Tri-State area? How are they tracking this path?**

I am not sure they are monitoring travelers from US areas with community spread.

**If you take vitamin C should the individual up the dosage to help increase immune system and better protect yourself?**

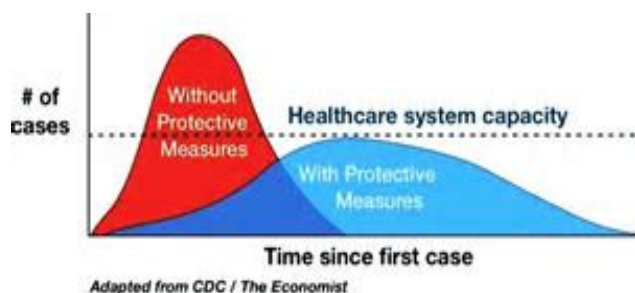
Maintain daily recommended dose.

**Do you foresee Florida responding as Wuhan did in forming a Coronavirus hospital or something of this severity?**

Mobile hospitals are routinely used during events like this to expand a hospital's treating capacity.

**If people start to adhere seriously to social distancing, how long do you think this crisis will continue at such a high level? Is there a curve that we will see crest and then start to recover?**

See the flatten the curve graph below.



**Should people at higher risk of complications, such as those with autoimmune diseases, wear masks?**

As directed by your physician, and definitely avoid crowded areas.

**We hosted a ton of vaccination events at our schools about 6 months ago, so a lot of employees are due for their second doses. I want to follow-up with them about staying on schedule for boosters since I can't host the events currently. Is this something our employees can call Teladoc about?**

No - local pharmacies are still administering routine vaccines for those over the age of 18.

**Should we still get a flu shot this late in the season?**

Flu season continues through April. It takes two weeks to develop immunity. It's not too late, but hurry.

**Has it been determined that if you contract COVID-19 once, you cannot get again in the same season?**

That is the current thinking - that there is very little chance of reinfection.

**UF has several cases of COVID-19. How should we approach our kids coming back home?**

If they were identified as a contact to the cases at a particular location, I would have them isolate upon return and monitor their symptoms.

**What is the risk of contamination with takeout food?**

Risk is of the person to person contact which is addressed by the standards for restaurant employees, and the limited to no contact process for pick up or delivery.