

CoVid Update: 13 July 2020

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The news about this virus and the consequences of incorrect analyses continue to pile up.

Several points have acquired greater significance in the last week or so. In no particular order they are:

1. What was first thought to be primarily a respiratory infection has turned out to be one with far more cardio-vascular consequences. It appears that the virus interferes with B and T lymphocytes resulting in clotting abnormalities, potentially affecting any organ. These abnormalities manifest as numerous clots that prevent proper blood flow and oxygenation. The result is tissue death and/or impairment downstream from the clots. Depending where the clots obstruct blood flow, the results can be: brain damage, heart dysfunction, liver, kidney, lung and GI impairment, death, etc. In short, any organ dependent on continuous blood supply is at risk for failure.
2. Recent analysis of the growing body of infection stats has pointed out that the risk of acquiring this infection is heavily skewed by a product of two critical factors: Both of them are respiratory. One is the sheer amount of virus particles present in the air surrounding an un-infected individual. The other is how long that individual is exposed to that air. These two factors taken together produce a probability of infection that is of major significance. Which is why singing choir in a badly ventilated church is far more dangerous than going to the beach; assuming good social distancing is the norm. Stay outside & Keep your distance.
3. It appears that transmission via surface contact is less of a risk than previously thought. That doesn't mean your kids can lick items in the store. It does mean that handling: the mail, recently purchased items, and the like are not as significant as what you breathe in, and how long you do it.
4. The reason attempts to "re-open" are such dangerous concepts, resides in the delay between when individuals are first exposed to the virus and when the first symptoms appear. In some cases this can take up to 2 weeks. If your governor waits until the cases start to pile up before doing anything, you won't know just how much of a problem you have for at least another week. Changes in the death stats won't start to show up for three weeks to a month after re-opening. So, beware of assessments about the success of a re-opening until all of the birds have come home to roost.
5. How well your mask protects you is not just a function of the material. It also depends on proper fit to prevent leakage and bypassing of virus-laden air. Any mask is better than nothing, but sloppy fit negates some of the benefits of wearing one.

Use your head and some common sense to stay well.