

From: Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Sent: Tue, 17 Mar 2020 03:04:31 +0000
To: Lerner, Andrea (NIH/NIAID) [E]
Subject: FW: Question about COVID-19 Mechanism of Transmission

Please respond.

From: EDWARD EITZEN (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, March 8, 2020 3:10 PM
To: Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAID) [E] (b) (6)
Subject: Question about COVID-19 Mechanism of Transmission

Hi Tony:

Thank you for what you are doing for our country to try and limit the consequences of COVID-19. Many Americans are hanging on your every word, as they should be, and that includes me.

A question about COVID-19 mechanism of spread: The reported reproductive number from China of about 2.6 indicates a likelihood of large droplet spread as the mode of transmission from person to person. My question is - could there be a component of airborne spread (droplet nuclei) with this virus? If super spreaders exist with COVID-19, is airborne spread possible? Knowing the answer to this question would help to inform decisions about PPE and Decontamination in settings such as Emergency Departments. If this is not already known definitively, could NIOSH and some key partners possibly study it in current quarantine settings?

Thanks, Tony. God bless you and your important work!

Best, Ed

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