

From: Fauci, Anthony (NIH/NIAD) [E]
Sent: Tue, 21 Apr 2020 17:48:36 +0000
To: (b) (6)
Cc: Lerner, Andrea (NIH/NIAD) [E]
Subject: FW: Coronavirus Questions for the Office of the Surgeon General

(b) (6)

Thank you for your note. Shown below are my answers to your questions. I hope that you find them helpful.

1. **How do you recommend I reassure our staff on dealing with the stressors of COVID-19?**
This is indeed an unprecedented and stressful time. Stress can often come from the unknown. In times of stress it is critical to take care of one's physical health, by eating well, getting enough sleep, and exercising. In addition, maintaining connections with family and friends (via phone calls, email, or video chatting) while physically socially distancing is very important.
2. **Can COVID-19 be contracted from a corpse?**
Infection control measures should be undertaken when dealing with deceased individuals with known or suspected COVID-19. The CDC provides guidance on this issue here:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-postmortem-specimens.html>
3. **If someone has been a user of Hydroxychloroquine for years, are they susceptible to contracting COVID-19?**
Clinical trials are underway to determine if hydroxychloroquine is effective in preventing COVID-19 in exposed persons. Until we know the answer to this question, persons who take hydroxychloroquine on a daily basis for another medical condition should consider themselves vulnerable to COVID-19 and take appropriate and recommended measures to protect themselves.
4. **Are masks and gloves truly effective, if so, why are so many medical professionals contracting the virus?**
I believe that infection control strategies which include proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) as recommended by the CDC are effective.
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Finfection-control%2Fcontrol-recommendations.html
In cases where inadequate PPE is worn, or if is not put on/taken off according to proper procedure, the risk of contracting COVID is increased. In addition, healthcare workers on the front lines can be exposed if they encounter a patient who is not initially suspected of having COVID-19 without PPE, especially if they are exposed to aerosol generating processes.
5. **What is the most important thing we should be doing, other than social distancing?**
Social distancing is key in order to avoid coming into contact with someone with COVID-19, but washing one's hands often (or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer) and avoiding touching one's face with unwashed hands are critical as well, especially when coming into contact with surfaces that may have been touched by others or public places.