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Topic: COVID-19

The topic that I will be interviewing someone about is the COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 is a disease caused by the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. Many specialists think that the new coronavirus originated in bats. Bats that carried the disease and infected anyone who ate the bat. A town of the name of Wuhan in China has many wet markets, where people can purchase fresh meats and live animals. These wet markets sell untamed and prohibited species such as raccoon dogs, cobras, and wild boars. The packed and moist conditions of these wet markets allowed for the exchange of genes. The exchange of genes can mutate a virus to infect and spread between humans. But as SARS-CoV-2 spreads throughout China and neighboring countries, data shows people who have not been in close contact with animals can get infected with this disease. Thus, this virus is transmitted from human to human. Although the virus originated in China, it has already spread to more than 180 countries. COVID-19 is very dangerous towards people with weak immune systems, such as elderly and newborns. Sometimes an infected person with COVID-19 can have no symptoms, which can make it very hard to distinguish if you are sick or not. Furthermore, symptoms of COVID-19 can be confused for the symptoms of other illnesses. Moreover, since COVID-19 is a virus, it can mutate and evolve to become more dangerous to humans, tricking other cells or developing lethal symptoms. The globalization of this virus has caused a pandemic. People now have to stay six feet away from others and are required to wear face protection to prevent the spread of the virus. Many things have changed since the start of the pandemic, such as schools changing schedules and going virtual, sport games with limited fans, companies changing policies and everything you do in public is a risk to becoming infected.

* **How many people have been infected so far?**

Currently, there are more than 32 million global COVID-19 cases in 188 countries. The numbers are rapidly increasing still, as COVID-19 is growing exponentially. The top 5 countries with the most cases are the **United States of America** with 7 million cases, **India** with 5.8 million cases, **Brazil** with 4.6 million cases, **Russia** with 1.1 million cases, and **Colombia** with more than 798,000 cases.

* **What precautions do you have to take to be safe?**

Some precautions to prevent getting COVID-19 is to wear a mask in public and to stay a safe distance of 6 feet away from others. Washing your hands frequently with water and soap for more than 20 seconds after you’ve been in a public place is needed. Also, refrain from touching your mouth, eyes, or nose with unwashed hands. Since there isn’t currently a vaccine for the virus, it is very important to stay safe and not become infected with COVID-19.

* **Is COVID-19 dangerous?**

Yes, COVID-19 is in fact very lethal. Symptoms of COVID-19 ranged from mild to severe where patients required intensive care in hospitals. Some people infected with COVID-19 can appear to show no symptoms. In addition, Some COVID-19 symptoms can lead to death. The risk of severe symptoms and illnesses increases with age. Also, People that already have underlying health conditions are at a high risk of severe symptoms.

* **Is COVID-19 a hoax?**

No. Although some may believe that COVID-19 is fake or a conspiracy to control society, it is certainly real. There has been multiple tests and studies about COVID-19. Every virus has their own pattern of RNA material, and COVID-19 tests for the RNA material of SARS-CoV-2 specifically. So, findings show that COVID-19 is not a hoax, and is an outbreak caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

* How many deaths are there of COVID-19 so far?

So far, there has been at least 987,000 deaths caused by COVID-19. Due to cases exponentially increasing, there will unfortunately be more COVID-19 deaths. The top 5 countries with the most deaths are **United States of America** with 200,000 deaths, **Brazil** with 140,000 deaths, **India** with 92,000 deaths, **Mexico** with 75,000 deaths, and the **United Kingdom** with 42,000 deaths.

* **Are masks mandatory?**

Yes. Masks are necessary and crucial to the prevention of the spread of COVID-19. It is recommended that people wear masks in public and around people who do not live in your household. Furthermore, make sure to wear a mask correctly. Wearing a mask incorrectly still can spread the virus. First, make sure to wash your hands before putting on your mask. Then, put the mask over your mouth and nose, and secure it under your chin. Make sure you can breathe easily with your mask on, and also make sure your mask doesn’t have an exhalation valve or vent. Do not put the mask around your neck or up on your forehead. The mask is supposed to cover your entire mouth and nose area. Finally, do not touch your mask, and if you do, wash your hands to disinfect any germs.

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