

Richard Lampe, M.D. soundbites

00:06

We know that this is a virus that causes colds and respiratory illness and so far what we know about it from China is that it does the same thing in patients there. There has been a published study as of January the 29th that covers the outbreak from in Wuhan, China from beginning, the middle of December, until January the 22nd, and thus far, I think the article. Well, the article did cover about 425 patients, there were no children, identified under the age of 15 in those 425 as yet. But if I have to predict children will be affected, and they'll be, they'll catch it just like other Corona viruses have been caught from respiratory secretions and so, just like all our pediatric respiratory viruses well how to prevent them. Well, when we are with a sick person. We wash our hands. If we are coughing we don't cough in their face we cough into our arm. If we go to the doctor, and we're sick. Ideally, our doctors, and our healthcare people should ask us to put on a mask so we don't infect other people in the waiting room. Because of the seriousness of the potential seriousness of this novel coronavirus people right now if they come from China, and they have a respiratory illness, they're going to be asked to put on a mask and taken to an isolation room, and then examine.

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I think anytime you travel internationally you want to be extra careful about what you eat and drink but in this case particularly washing your hands not touching, other things, staying away from people with respiratory illnesses, I think, following the advice of travel consultants. Right now, in the world at least 23 countries have this novel coronavirus reported. And so that's going, finding out which countries have it and the status before you travel is going to be important.

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So respiratory illnesses and children and adults are cough, runny nose, sometimes with fever, and often rather abrupt onset. It is, it is that common cold sometimes it will start with a sore throat but is almost always a runny nose, cough, and sometimes fever.

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There are lots of respiratory viruses besides coronavirus a common cause of colds. The other respiratory viruses that we know about and can diagnose now are things like respiratory syncytial virus it's abbreviated RSV. Well we have tests to identify that and we know you should stay home and how to protect from sharing that with other people, by with washing your hands, wearing masks etc. Another one would be influenza. Well, from that respiratory illness, not only do we have tests to diagnose it, we have treatment that will reduce the infectivity and help the patient out, and we have a vaccine for that respiratory illness, at the current time, we don't have vaccines for the corona viruses that we know are here. I'm sure we are working and will have I hope, a vaccine against this novel Corona virus, when it becomes safe and effective.

3:39

Comparing one respiratory illness like this new novel coronavirus to another respiratory illness like measles. One of the ways that doctors and scientists determine it's a reproductive number that is, if I have it how many people can I infect. Right now, we believe that the novel Corona virus has a reproductive number of two. So if I have it two people are at risk if they're close to me, measles as a respiratory illness as a reproductive number ranging from nine to 18, very much

more risk of catching that if you're susceptible. And remember, we have a vaccine against measles. Similarly with influenza. This virus may be close to what influenza is in epidemics or in pandemics, and we have vaccine and medicine for influenza.