

Rotary D6330 Passport Club

Frequently Asked Questions: Coronavirus (COVID-19)* 2020 04 02

Q1. Why is there so much concern about this Corona Virus?

- This is an extraordinary public health situation with which very few health professionals have experience. The last pandemic was with the Spanish flu in 1918. A pandemic is far worse than an epidemic, such as we experienced with SARS and H1N1. Public health officials have expected this pandemic, based on their expertise and experience, but with little to no ability to predict the timing.
- Societal measures have been implemented at a population level to try to minimise or slow down the rate of transmission via social distancing, isolation, quarantine and restricting meetings of large groups where close contact may be inevitable. That is why churches and schools have been closed plus sporting events and recreational groups have not been allowed.

Q2. Who is at risk for contracting and being infected with COVID-19?

- The most vulnerable in our society are at highest risk of being infected with this virus. Some of the vulnerable include people over 60 years of age, those with chronic conditions, those with complex and multiple medical issues and those with compromised or deficient immune systems.
- Nevertheless, there have been reports of healthy and younger people who have contracted the virus and become very ill and/or have died. Furthermore, some people who have tested positive for the virus have no symptoms, but could still infect others with whom they come in contact.

Q3 Why don't hospitals and other health care facilities buy more materials from their regular suppliers?

- Budget allocations are typically based on use & experience from previous years. While a pandemic has been expected for a long time, no one could predict when, where or the intensity of the rate of infection.
- Once the virus takes hold in a community and spreads quickly, hospital beds are filled at an unprecedented rate and supplies are quickly used up. As this is a particularly nasty virus that is spreading with minimal contact and great speed, new facilities with ICU beds and ventilators have to be set up quickly to

meet demand. This includes having sufficient and correct PPE for all health care providers.

- Finances are insufficient to meet these expanded needs to provide many more pieces of equipment than typically used and supplier stocks are quickly depleted. For example, the Canadian government has just released funds to encourage Canadian businesses to produce necessary PPE supplies at the required level of quality demanded by Canadian public health.
- Few health organisations have sufficient supplies to deal with the extraordinary demand imposed by the speed of transmission and the number of people who have been, or will be, infected with this virus.
- Health care resources are always spread thin with very little room to meet extraordinary demand. This includes both supplies as well as finances. Personal protective equipment is essential to protect all health care workers who have direct contact with infected patients. Severely affected patients experience respiratory problems and treatment in ICU.

For more detailed information, please see the following links:

A. World Health Organization: Virus Fact Sheet

[https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/influenza-\(avian-and-other-zoonotic\)](https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/influenza-(avian-and-other-zoonotic))

B. Health Canada: COVID-19 Disease

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

C. Public Health Ontario

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus>

D. Video Link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_ppXSABYLY&feature=youtu.&app=desktop

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* As requested by the Passport Club's Committee to Secure Face Shields (multi-use and approved by Health Canada)