

Misconceptions about Coronavirus

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Coronavirus has been sweeping across the globe. While the infection rate has been rising, a vaccine has yet been made and ongoing researches are on their way figuring out how the virus works.

With tens of thousands of confirmed cases and fatalities, it would be predictable that the public are panicking about the coronavirus pandemic. Inevitably, this has led to misconceptions about Coronavirus and outrageous acts such as stockpiling daily necessities, clearing off store shelves of supplies that others desperately need. And the most ridiculous one, in my opinion, is that some people go to the streets, blaming other people “with a mask on”, and keep saying that Coronavirus doesn’t even exist. But before I clear up the misconceptions of the virus, let me explain what exactly coronavirus is and how it affects your life.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Some of them cause illnesses in people and others circulate among mammals and birds. Animal coronaviruses rarely spread to humans. Zoonotic coronaviruses have emerged in recent years such as COVID-19, SARS and MERS. The illnesses caused in humans mainly manifest as a respiratory infection or sometimes a gastrointestinal infection. The spectrum of illnesses varies from having no symptoms, mild symptoms to severe ones such as rapidly progressive pneumonia, acute respiratory distress syndrome, septic shock and even multi-organ failures which would result in death.

Amid the arising global panic, myths and misconceptions are emerging, and I would like to clarify some of them.

1. Wearing a face mask will absolutely protect you from getting infected.

Although it cannot 100% protect you from infection, wearing a mask prevents you from infecting others. That is why many governments worldwide require their citizens to wear a face mask in public transport or crowded places.

2. Products from China can infect you.

This just sounds ridiculous and a bit racist. Although the virus can survive for a short period of time on some surfaces, it is highly unlikely to be spread from products of packaging shipped over a period of days or weeks at ambient temperatures. Currently, there isn't any proof to support COVID-19 transmission through shipped goods. There have also been no reported cases overseas through shipped items.

3. Ibuprofen can make Coronavirus symptoms worse.

Although this does sound plausible, there is no evidence from the World Health Organization to support this claim.

It sounds really silly that the sales of Corona beer brand have dramatically dropped due to the fact that some people actually believe the beer is related to Coronavirus. Isn't that absurd? Stay safe and do your research and fact check before you make a claim.