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QUESTION: Covid-19 is the ongoing viral pandemic in the world and the reason you are at home. Discuss the anatomical implication of this virus on the respiratory system of human.

ANSWER:

Covid-19 as we know develops in the respiratory system of humans and it starts with a cough and fever, this is as a result of the virus reaching the respiratory tree; the air passages that conduct air between the lungs and the outside. The lining of the respiratory tree becomes injured, causing inflammation which irritates the nerves in lining of the airway. This can stimulate a cough.

It doesn’t stop there; it goes into the gas exchange units, which are at the end of the air passages. If they become infected they respond by pouring out inflammatory material into the air sacs that are at the bottom of the lungs. If the air sacs become inflamed, it will cause an outpouring of inflammatory material into the lungs and we end up with pneumonia. Lungs that become filled with inflammatory material are unable to get enough oxygen to the bloodstream, reducing the body’s ability to take on oxygen and get rid of carbon dioxide. This usually causes death.

Corona virus tends to affect all of the lungs, instead of just small parts. Once the infection is in the lung and, if it involves the air sacs, then the body’s response is first to try and destroy the virus to limit its replication.