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**Department : Anatomy**

**Matric Number: 18/MHS01/163**

**Course Code: Ana 204**

**Question**

Explain the histological basic of the upper respiratory system (conducting portion of the respiratory system) attacked by the coronavirus.

**Answer**

The novel coronavirus also known as SARS-CoV-2 is from a large family of viruses also known as coronaviruses which can cause illness in humans. In humans, several of these viruses can cause conditions such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. It is highly contagious as it spreads through droplets of an infected person when they sneeze or cough.

The virus makes its way to the nostrils when a person who has come in contact with the virus touches their nostrils or mouths. It then makes its way to the individuals’ throat and delves deeper into the body. During this period your body recognizes the threat of a virus and responds through a fever, a dry cough and a sore throat. In rare cases, there may be a loss of smell and/or taste in infected individuals.

The coronavirus does not have much impact on the upper respiratory system due to the lower number of Angiotensin-Converting enzyme 2 (ACE2) which is the binding receptor for the coronavirus.