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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:

Coronavirus was identified last year as a cluster of pneumonia cases caused by a new coronavirus. Doctors have discovered that it is a respiratory disease, the type that reaches intoyour respiratory tract, which includes organs such as lungs. It causes a range of breathing problems from mild to critical. It has been discovered that older adults and people with other health conditions like diabetes, heart disease and cancer may have more serious symptoms.

SARS-COV-2, which is the virus is part of the coronavirus family. When the virus gets in your body, it comes into contact with mucus membranes that line your nose, eyes and mouth. The virus enters a healthy cell and uses the cell to make new virus parts. It begins to multiply, and the new viruses infect nearby cells. Picture your respiratory tract as a system of branches, and where it all begins as the trachea/windpipe. It then splits into smaller branches in your lungs. At the end ofeach branch are tiny air sacs which is known as alveoli. This is where oxygen goes into your bloodand carbon dioxide comes out. The new coronavirus can infect both the upper and lower part of your respiratory tract. It travelsdown your airways. The lining can become irritated and eventually inflamed. It was discovered that in some cases, the infection can reach all the way down into your alveoli. COVID-19 is a new condition, and scientists keep learning more and more everyday about what it can do to your lungs. It is believed to have similar effects on your body with that of two other coronavirus diseases, such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome(SARS) and Middle East Respiratory 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.