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#### **What Are Coronaviruses**

Coronaviruses are a group of viruses which typically tend to affect human and other mammal’s respiratory tract and their guts. The viruses are closely associated with infections like pneumonia, the common cold and conditions like severe acute respiratory syndrome(SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome(MERS).

#### **Origin Of The Coronavirus**

In 1937, coronaviruses were first identified as an infectious bronchitis virus with which birds suffered that could devastate poultry stocks. Today, the viruses are the cause of the common cold in 15% to 30% of all cases. In the past 70 years, researchers have found camels, cattle, cats, dogs, horses, mice, pigs, rats and turkeys that were infected with coronaviruses.

#### **Number Of Confirmed Cases**

According to research done by Johns Hopkins University, there are more than 20,000 confirmed coronavirus cases related to the current outbreak. However, although there are a few cases in about two dozen or more countries worldwide, the overwhelming majority of people who have been sickened and all but one who has been killed by the virus are in the city of Wuhan, China. Students who study abroad in other parts of China have not been affected by the virus.

#### **Travel Restrictions**

People who live or work in Wuhan, China have been quarantined in place and restricted from traveling outside the city. Residents of other cities in Hubei Province, in which Wuhan is located, have also been restricted from leaving and travelling to other parts of China or abroad. Taiwan and Hong Kong have restricted people from Hubei Province from entering the countries. The Centers for Disease Control And Prevention strongly recommends Americans avoid nonessential travel to China.

#### **The Virus Seems To Originate In Bats**

Researchers studying the genetic sequence of the 2019-nCoV virus found it shares 88% of its genetic sequence with two coronaviruses originating in bats. This led researchers to conclude the 2019-nCoV virus most likely came from bats. Although bats are sold markets in China and eaten, the Huanan seafood market was not selling bats at the time of the 2019-nCoV outbreak. This suggests some other type of animal sold at the market made contact with bats, became infected and passed the virus on to humans.

#### **Common In Animals, Rare In Humans**

Coronaviruses are commonly found in many species of animals all around the world, however, very few of them affect humans. Having coronaviruses found in animals evolve and be able to spread from an animal to humans is possible very rare. This is what took place with two coronaviruses, Middle East respiratory syndrome(MERS)and severe acute respiratory syndrome(SARS). These two coronaviruses are known to cause very severe symptoms of respiratory system problems in humans and called for comprehensive public health responses.

The virus that causes COVID-19 infects people of all ages. However, evidence to date suggests that two groups of

people are at a higher risk of getting severe COVID-19 disease. These are older people (that is people over 60 years

old); and those with underlying medical conditions (such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory

disease, and cancer). The risk of severe disease gradually increases with age starting from around 40 years. It’s

important that adults in this age range protect themselves and in turn protect others that may be more vulnerable.

WHO has issued advice for these two groups and for community support to ensure that they are protected from

COVID-19 without being isolated, stigmatized, left in a position of increased vulnerability or unable to access basic

provisions and social care. This advice covers the subject of receiving visitors, planning for supplies of medication and

food, going out safely in public and staying connected with others through phone calls or other means. It is essential

that these groups are supported by their communities during the COVID-19 outbreak. WHO emphasizes that all

people must protect themselves from COVID-19, which will also protect other.