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ANA 202

QUESTION: WHAT IS THE ANATOMICAL IMPLICATION OF COVID 19 ON RESPIRATORY SYSTEMS OF HUMANS.

The COVID 19 which is caused by corona virus is a large RNA virus that infects the human respiratory tract. Once inside the RNA inserts itself into the cells own replication machinery and makes multiple copies of the virus this burst out of the cell and the infection spreads. The virus enters the body generally through the mouth or nose. From there the virus makes its way down into the air sacs inside your lungs, known as alveoli.

Once in alveoli the virus uses its distinctive spike proteins to hijack cells. The primary genetic programming of any virus is to make copies of itself and COVID 19 is no exception. Once the virus RNA has entered a cell new copies are made and the cell is killed in the process, releasing new virus to infect neighboring cells in the alveoli.

The process can occur initially without the infected person knowing which s one of the reasons the virus has been able to spread effectively and vastly. Occasionally though the virus can cause severe problems when it moves down the respiratory tract and infects the lungs which are even richer in cells with receptors. Many of the cells are broken down and the lungs become congested. In some cases the immune system goes into overdrive attracting cells to the lungs resulting in inflammation. The process can run out of control more immune cells pour in and inflammation becomes worse. THIS IS KNOWN AS CYTOKINE STORMS.