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**DEAPRTMENT: HUMAN ANATOMY**

**IMPLICATIONS OF COVID-19 ON THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM**

The Covid-19 virus is an infectious disease caused by the novel newly discovered coronavirus. Most people infected with the Covid-19 virus experience mild to moderate respiratory illness. The Covid-19 virus latches its spiky surface proteins to receptors or healthy cells, especially those in the lungs. The proteins bust into cells through the mouth, nose and ear and moves down the respiratory tract. The virus affects he is lining of the throat, airways, and lungs. He lungs become inflamed making it tough for breathing. This can lead to pneumonia, an infection of tiny sacs (called alveoli) inside the lungs where the blood exchanges oxygen and Carbon dioxide. Mild cases mostly end with a cough, fever, and sore throat and severe cases develop shortness of breath called dyspnea and later Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). It damages the tissues and blood vessels causing debris to collect inside them. This makes it harder for breathing and most patients need a ventilator during this phase. As fluid collects in the lungs, they carry less oxygen to the blood and the blood may not supply the organs with enough oxygen to survive and this can cause the kidneys, lungs, heart, liver etc. to shut down and stop working. Multiple organ failure results in death.