**ASSIGNMENT**

QUESTION: Disadvantages to the flora of the skin caused by not touching it?

**ANSWER:**

Coronavirus poses a serious threat to human beings and other animals, they are zoonotic. Coronavirus causes widespread respiratory, gastrointestinal and central nervous system diseases in human and other animals, threating human health and causing economic loss. Coronaviruses are able of adaoting to new environments through mutations with relative ease and hence are programmed to alter host range and tissue tropism efficiently. Therefore health threats from the coronaviruses are constant and long term.

Structure of Coronavirus

* Coronaviruses are large, enveloped, positive-stranded RNA viruses.
* They have the largest genome among all RNA viruses, typically ranging from 27 to 34 kb.
* The genome is packed inside a helical capsid formed by the nucleocapsid protein (N) and further surrounded by an envelope.
* Associated with the viral envelope are at least three structural proteins:
* The membrane protein (M) and the envelope protein (E) are involved in virus assembly, whereas the spike protein (S) mediates virus entry into host cells.
* Some coronaviruses also encode an envelope-associated hemagglutinin-esterase protein (HE).

COVID-19 appeared in Wuhan, a city in China, in December 2019.

Although health officials are still tracing the exact source of this new coronavirus, early hypotheses thought it may be linked to a seafood market in Wuhan, China.

Some people who visited the market developed viral pneumonia caused by the new coronavirus.

A report that came out on Jan. 25, 2020, notes that the individual with the first reported case became ill on Dec. 1, 2019, and had no link to the seafood

Mode of Transmission

* Person to person contact
* Respiratory droplets
* Touching of infected surfaces

Precautionary measures

* Washing of hands frequently
* Use of hand sanitizers
* Wearing of face mask
* Staying indoors
* Disinfecting surfaces regularly

Disadvantages posed by the precautionary measures (e.g. frequent hand washing) maybe

* Destabilization of normal flora of the skin which exposes the skin to more fungal infections that would normally be prevented by the normal flora and also alter the composition of microbiota in the gastrointestinal tract which may lead to medical complications & deficiencies.
* It may take for the memory cells recall a previous disease, taking a longer time to fight it and become immune
* The immune system won’t have recognized the Coronavirus and won’t be prepared to fight against it if one infected
* Excretion rate may reduce as the rate of possible harmful bacterias have reduced as they have few entry points