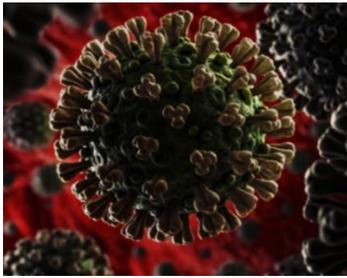


Can Coronavirus (COVID-19) be contained?



To give a little insight, the hashtag of “2020 will be my year” went viral on many social media platforms – people were really hoping a new start for them in one way or the another, but little did we know that the whole world would be struck with Coronavirus (COVID-19), which we only imagined could possibly happen in movies. But the magnitude of 1918 to 1920 pandemic (H1N1 Virus) known as the “Spanish Flu” or “La Grippe” cannot be forgotten even though it was 100 years ago, the memory of those that died are still with us. The severity of the Spanish Flu cannot be underestimated or over exaggerated, as records showed that about a quarter of the world’s population were infected. It was estimated that 500 million people were infected. The COVID-19 like Spanish Flu is indeed a global problem, an invisible enemy, nobody is immune to this deadly virus and it does not discriminate who and when to take control of the human body.

A new strain discovered in late 2019 that has not been previously detected in humans with the virus being able to spread around the world. Whether COVID-19 could be contained, is a question that urgently need an answer and there are many unanswered questions on How, Where and When did the COVID-19 start. The propagation of the virus was escalating from been an epidemic to pandemic. The COVID-19 is a zoonotic disease. In other words, it spreads between animals and humans. Detailed research shows that SARS-COV can spread to people from civet cats, and MERS-COV can spread to people from camels. Some well-known coronaviruses are transmitted in animals that have not yet infected humans. Signs of infection include fever, cough, shortness of breath or trouble in breathing, in more serious cases, infection of pneumonia hits, kidney failure including other organs and death.

The COVID-19 was firstly referred to as a virus but due to the spontaneous and uncontrollable propagation, it is now referred to as a disease. The potentiality of COVID-19 being referred to as a disease has been the roar of high alert and deep concern worldwide, as death rates plummeted from one country to the other. The state of panic caused by the spread of COVID-19 in many countries has shown the dark side of the society, people queuing for food to buy at the supermarkets, some bought more than what they could consume themselves or within their families by doing so creating an artificial scarcity with huge price jump and others with the possibility of selling the consumable goods online at a high price making abnormal profit.

Furthermore, Governments around the world are adopting unprecedented measures to control the COVID-19 by maintaining social isolation. Major cities are blocked with various travel restrictions imposed across the countries and their borders. To reduce stress and panic on the society, patients with mild symptoms are placed in temporary containment facilities which were set up in many places around the country, establishing quarantines for citizens who are coming back from their travel, powerful emergence of the epitome of hygienic care, self-isolation and social (well-formed) distancing are the daily norms. Odd enough, some countries have demonstrated that COVID-19 can be suppressed and controlled. A call for all countries to take urgent actions and respond to the outbreak is necessary than ever before.

On a serious note, we can stop the spread of this invisible enemy. Collectively we can make the world a better place and even strive to develop more vaccines that can cure other diseases. Please follow the Government advice on how to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Citation

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