Should you be worried about getting sick?  
California has confirmed six cases of coronavirus — a contagious respiratory illness — with at least one in Los Angeles County. As the disease infects thousands worldwide, research is being conducted on how the virus spreads and how those who are infected can be cured.

Getting through the onslaught unscathed  
Disease knows no borders. In our interconnected world, infections can spread from rural villages to major cities in a short time, entering a human host through the mouth, eyes and nose and more. Daily activities make the spread of illness very easy. How can you protect yourself and others?

Is hand sanitizer enough to protect you?  
Germs and disease are everywhere in the air on our food. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends washing hands whenever possible to reduce germs, or to use hand sanitizer. Also, studies show that face masks may be effective in helping to keep you well.
CORONAVIRUS: Not a major threat yet in the U.S., but public health officials take precautions anyway

BY ANI TUTUNJYAN & MARI TENDORIO

The number of people infected with coronavirus is growing but is not yet a major threat in the United States. The disease appears to be contained, for now, to individuals who recently traveled from Wuhan, China, to America. The first case in L.A. was a returning traveler from China. This number, however, continues to increase as new cases are reported.

The virus is thought to have originated in Wuhan, China, a city known for its three-month-long population of 11 million people. Coronavirus is considered a zoonotic disease — that is, transmitted from animals to humans. Most of the people who are infected with this disease are elderly or have underlying health conditions.

In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have confirmed two cases of coronavirus: one in California and one in Washington, D.C. The CDC has increased testing for the virus, which is currently being conducted at over 50 laboratories throughout the country.

The virus is not as infectious as the flu and the symptoms less severe, but it can spread in the community.

WHOOPING COUGH: Outbreaks still threaten L.A. schools

BY MARI TENDORIO

 pertussis, more commonly known as whooping cough, is a highly contagious and potentially serious bacterial infection. It's spread from person to person through droplets. The disease can only be found in humans, although it can only infect people who are still alive and not yet vaccinated.

Since the 1950s, the U.S. has seen outbreaks of whooping cough, with hundreds of cases and deaths. According to the CDC, the last major outbreak was in 2010 and 2011, when 15,000 cases were reported in the U.S. The disease is spread through droplets, which can be inhaled by someone within six feet of the infected person.

Those infected with the virus are asked to avoid close contact with others and to wear face masks to prevent further infection. The CDC advises that those who have not been vaccinated to take part in a whooping cough and whooping cough vaccine, and to stay home if they are infected.

According to the CDC, whooping cough is most common among children under the age of 1 year. It is caused by the bacterium Bordetella pertussis, which is transmitted through respiratory droplets. The disease is highly contagious, with an estimated 95 percent of airborne particles, including viruses and bacteria, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

WASH YOUR HANDS: Do it. Wash your hands.

FACED MASKS: Are they effective?

INFLUENZA: Vaccine may offer more protection

BY ANI TUTUNJYAN

The influenza vaccine is administered each year to help prevent seasonal flu, which affects millions of people worldwide. This year’s flu season is expected to be especially severe, with a higher number of cases and deaths than in previous years.

Scientists and health officials are rushing to create a new vaccine against the virus, which at a minimum should be available within six months. It has killed at least 42 people and sickened over 1,000 each day. It has killed at least 30 people and sickened over 1,000 each day. It has killed at least 30 people and sickened over 1,000 each day. It has killed at least 30 people and sickened over 1,000 each day.

The flu season will be, the CDC reports.

Thus far, almost none of the samples tested by the CDC have been resistant to Tamiflu or any other antiviral drug. These medications do not cure the flu, but they can reduce the severity of the symptoms and shorten the duration of the illness. One way to do this is to start taking Tamiflu within 48 hours of the first symptoms.

LA County is well prepared to manage cases and suspected cases of novel coronavirus

DR. NAJIB VIJAYKUMAR

LA County Director of Public Health

While the disease hasn’t been identified as a major threat yet in the U.S., public health officials take precautions anyway.

Getting the worst of it When you get sick

KAYLA LEE

PULLED INGREDIENTS

“Even if you do get the flu vaccine and still get sick, you are hopefully prevented from getting the worst outcome. No vaccine is 100 percent effective.”

KAYLA LEE

“Wash your hands. Wash your hands. Wash your hands.”

Dr. Naqib Vijaykumar, LA County Director of Public Health

With the Wuhan coronavirus spreading rapidly to other countries, scientists and health officials are rushing to create a new vaccine against the virus, which at a minimum should be available within six months.

The virus can be contagious for up to 14 days before symptoms show, according to the CDC. The virus is highly contagious, with an estimated 95 percent of airborne particles, including viruses and bacteria, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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