

# CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19) MYTH BUSTERS



## **ARE HAND DRYERS EFFECTIVE IN KILLING THE CORONAVIRUS?**

No. Hand dryers are not effective in killing COVID-19. To protect yourself against the coronavirus, you should frequently clean your hands with at least 60% alcohol-based hand gel or wash them with soap and water. Once your hands are cleaned, you should dry them thoroughly by using paper towels or a warm air dryer.



## **HOW EFFECTIVE ARE THERMAL SCANNERS IN DETECTING PEOPLE INFECTED WITH THE CORONAVIRUS?**

Thermal scanners are effective in detecting people who have developed a fever (i.e. have a higher than normal body temperature) because of infection with the coronavirus. However, they cannot detect people who are infected but are not yet sick with fever. This is because it takes between 2 and 10 days before people who are infected become sick and develop a fever.



## **IS IT SAFE TO RECEIVE A LETTER OR A PACKAGE FROM CHINA?**

Yes, it is safe. People receiving packages from China are not at risk of contracting the coronavirus. From previous analysis, we know coronaviruses do not survive long on objects, such as letters or packages.



## **CAN SPRAYING ALCOHOL OR CHLORINE ALL OVER YOUR BODY KILL THE CORONAVIRUS?**

No. Spraying alcohol or chlorine all over your body will not kill viruses that have already entered your body. Spraying such substances can be harmful to clothes or mucous membranes (i.e. eyes, mouth). Be aware that both alcohol and chlorine can be useful to disinfect surfaces, but they need to be used under appropriate recommendations.



## **CAN PETS AT HOME SPREAD THE CORONAVIRUS COVID-19?**

At present, there is no evidence that companion animals/pets such as dogs or cats can be infected with the coronavirus. However, it is always a good idea to wash your hands with soap and water after contact with pets. This protects you against various common bacteria such as E.coli and Salmonella that can pass between pets and humans.



## **CAN REGULARLY RINSING YOUR NOSE WITH SALINE HELP PREVENT INFECTION WITH THE CORONAVIRUS?**

No. There is no evidence that regularly rinsing the nose with saline has protected people from infection with the coronavirus. There is some limited evidence that regularly rinsing nose with saline can help people recover more quickly from the common cold. However, regularly rinsing the nose has not been shown to prevent respiratory infections.

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## **DO VACCINES AGAINST PNEUMONIA PROTECT YOU AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS?**

No. Vaccines against pneumonia, do not provide protection against the coronavirus. The virus is so new and different that it needs its own vaccine. Researchers are trying to develop a vaccine against COVID-19, and WHO is supporting their efforts. Although pneumonia vaccines are not effective against COVID-19, they are highly recommended to protect against other respiratory illness.



## **ARE ANTIBIOTICS EFFECTIVE IN PREVENTING AND TREATING THE CORONAVIRUS?**

No, antibiotics do not work against viruses, only bacteria. The coronavirus (COVID-19) is a virus and, therefore, antibiotics should not be used as a means of prevention or treatment. However, if you are hospitalized for the COVID-19, you may receive antibiotics because bacterial co-infection is possible.



## **DOES THE CORONAVIRUS AFFECT OLDER PEOPLE, OR ARE YOUNGER PEOPLE ALSO SUSCEPTIBLE?**

People of all ages can be infected by the coronavirus COVID-19. Older people, and people with pre-existing medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease) appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus. WHO advises people of all ages to take steps to protect themselves from the virus, for example by following good hand hygiene and good respiratory hygiene.



## **ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC MEDICINES TO PREVENT OR TREAT THE CORONAVIRUS?**

To date, there is no specific medicine recommended to prevent or treat the coronavirus (COVID-19). However, those infected with the virus should receive appropriate care to relieve and treat symptoms, and those with severe illness should receive optimized supportive care. Some specific treatments are under investigation, and will be tested through clinical trials.

