



IIM Newsletter March 2020

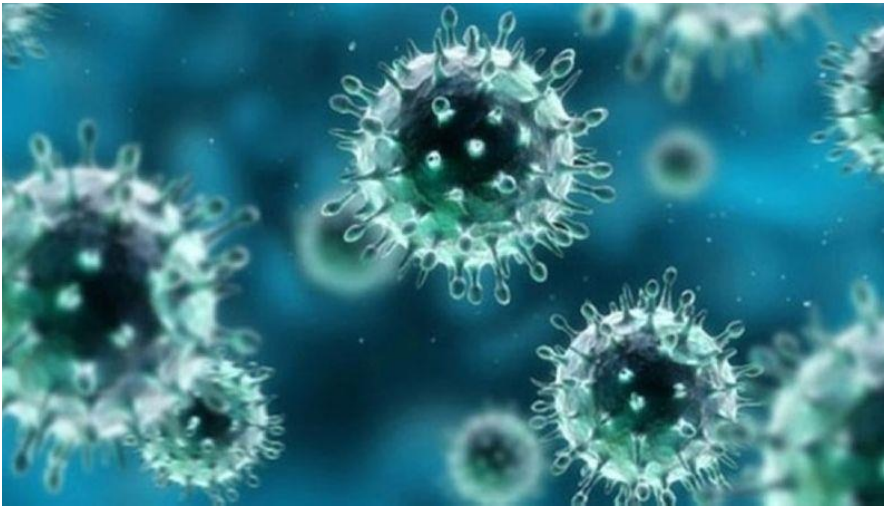
# The Virus that Stopped the Planet



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## IIM Newsletter March 2020: The Virus that Stopped the Planet



On 11 March 2020 Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO) characterised the outbreak of COVID-19 as a **pandemic**.

In the WHO's official announcement declaring COVID-19 as a pandemic, Dr Tedros said:

“We cannot say this loudly enough, or clearly enough, or often enough: all countries can still change the course of this pandemic. If countries detect, test, treat, isolate, trace and mobilise their people in the response, those with a handful of cases can prevent those cases becoming clusters, and those clusters becoming community transmission.”



Some five years ago, During the Ebola outbreak in 2015, Bill Gates in his TED talk explained **why we are not ready** for the next epidemic incident, what is likely to happen and what we needed to do in order to be more prepared for outbreaks of viruses like Ebola or Novel Coronavirus.

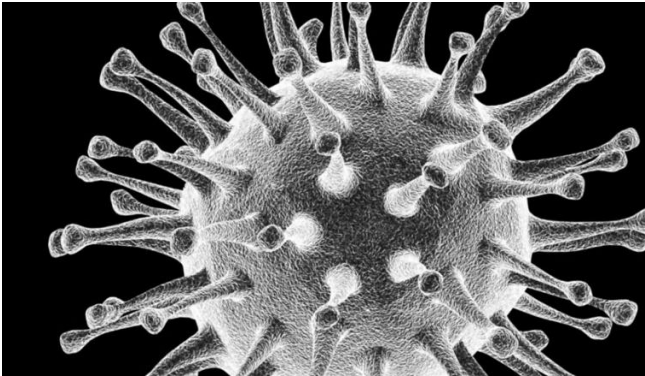


Bill Gates,  
TED Talk, March  
2015:  
“We are not ready  
for the next  
epidemic”

*"Today the risk of a great catastrophe does not look like this..."*



*"...instead, it looks like this:"*



*"...if anything kills millions of people in the next few decades, it is most likely going to be a highly infectious virus, rather than a war..."*

*Not missiles, but microbes."*

Bill Gates

You can watch this Bill Gates' TED Talk at:

[https://www.ted.com/talks/bill\\_gates\\_the\\_next\\_outbreak\\_we\\_re\\_not\\_ready](https://www.ted.com/talks/bill_gates_the_next_outbreak_we_re_not_ready)

Over 720,000 confirmed cases of this respiratory illness have been recorded globally and more than 4,000 in Australia as of Monday, 30 March 2020. It seems to be on the decline in China, demonstrating that the course of the outbreak there has been altered, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). WHO has been monitoring the spread of the Novel Coronavirus since 31 December 2019, when "a pneumonia of unknown cause" had first been detected in Wuhan, central China.

*China's experience in containing the spread of the Novel Coronavirus should serve as a lesson for the rest of our planet now facing the COVID-19 pandemic. Wuhan's citizens paid the high price with the comprehensive lockdown, but helped the rest of China and the world.*

*"This containment was effective and did allow the rest of China to be able to contain the outbreak in a very effective manner. The shape of the epidemic and the small number of cases that were seen outside Hubei are a testimony to the success and the effectiveness",*  
Dr. Gauden Galea, WHO representative said.

*"So, that's a big lesson: that the natural course of the outbreak does not need to be a very high peak that overwhelms health services. This lesson in containment, therefore, is a lesson that other countries can learn from and adapt for their own circumstances"*



## Protect yourself and others from COVID-19

**COVID-19**

**How to avoid infection or spreading the virus**

- Wash hands regularly with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Cover your face when coughing or sneezing
- Use disposable tissues and dispose of them immediately after use
- Avoid contact with people showing respiratory illness symptoms
- Monitor the situation and adapt to it
- Stay at home**



Dr Tedros, WHO's Director General provides some simple measures to protect yourself and people around you by reducing risks from getting infected by Novel Coronavirus

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6644274032332025856>

Social media, instant messages and other on-line resources are overwhelmed with misinformation, fake news, untested claims and 'magical' cures. The following WHO's on-line resource provides some common COVID-19 related myth busters:

### COVID-19 Myth-busters

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>



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Home / Emergencies / Diseases / Coronavirus disease 2019 / Advice for public / Myth busters

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public: Myth busters

## COVID-19 Facts and Statistic

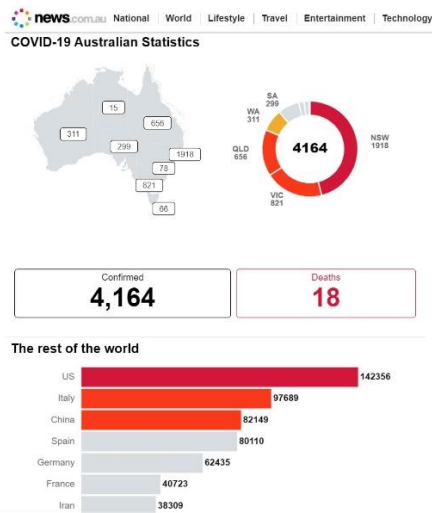
There are number of online resources providing a plethora of relevant facts, reports, analysis and visualisations aimed at helping you understand this disease and its impact on our planet. We selected a few:

Up-to-date numbers, facts and statistical analysis from 199 affected countries and territories are available from the Worldmeters' website:

<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus>

Country, Other	Total Cases	New Cases	Total Deaths	New Deaths	Total Recovered	Active Cases	Serious, Critical	Total Cases / 1M pop	Deaths / 1M pop	1st case
World	721,946	+68,884	33,066	+3,110	151,312	536,668	26,789	92.6	4.4	Jan-20
USA	142,647	+18,489	2,484	+264	4,559	135,004	2,970	429	8	Jan-20
Italy	97,689	+5,217	10,779	+705	13,030	73,880	3,906	1,616	178	Jan-20
China	81,439	+45	3,309	+5	75,448	2,691	742	37	2	Jan-20
Spain	80,110	+6,875	8,893	+821	14,799	58,598	4,165	1,713	148	Jan-20
Germany	62,425	+4,740	541	+108	6,211	52,683	1,979	745	6	Jan-20
France	46,174	+2,599	2,696	+292	7,392	30,366	4,632	615	49	Jan-20
Iran	38,309	+2,901	2,640	+123	12,391	23,278	3,206	456	31	Feb-20
UK	19,522	+2,433	1,228	+209	135	18,159	163	288	19	Jan-20
Switzerland	14,829	+753	300	+36	1,595	12,834	301	1,713	35	Feb-20
Netherlands	10,866	+1,104	771	+132	250	9,845	972	634	45	Feb-20
Belgium	10,836	+1,702	431	+78	1,359	9,046	867	935	37	Feb-20
S. Korea	9,583	+105	152	+8	5,033	4,398	50	187	3	Jan-20
Turkey	9,217	+1,815	131	+23	105	8,981	568	109	2	Mar-20
Alustria	8,789	+517	86	+18	479	8,223	187	976	19	Feb-20
Canada	6,320	+665	65	+5	573	5,682	120	167	2	Jan-21
Portugal	5,962	+792	119	+18	43	5,800	89	585	12	Mar-20
Norway	4,284	+269	28	+3	7	4,251	91	790	5	Feb-20
Brazil	4,256	+352	136	+22	6	4,114	296	20	0.6	Feb-20
India	4,247	+628	15	+3	132	4,100	74	491	2	Feb-20
Australia	4,163	+528	17	+3	244	3,902	28	183	0.7	Jan-21
Sweden	3,700	+253	110	+5	16	3,574	255	386	11	Jan-20

COVID-19 numbers are scary, but ignoring them is even scarier:



Mathematical principle of exponential growth applied to COVID-19 numbers in Australia

<https://www.news.com.au/lifestyle/health/health-problems/coronavirus-exponential-growth-explains-terrifying-spread-of-virus/news-story/6f17b9f488c71f5fe3b858daf10b3ee2>

Effective data visualisation illustrating COVID-19 related risks and impacts

Information is Beautiful visualisations

<https://informationisbeautiful.net/visualizations/covid-19-coronavirus-infographic-datapack>



## Suspected Novel Coronavirus mechanism of action

The following medical animation explains what pandemic is, how Novel Coronavirus attacks human body, how Coronavirus disease (COVID19) is spreading and provides recommended precautions and measures to reduce risks of getting infected by this virus.



## Fighting Misinformation

So, how can we deal with a constant stream of new information related to COVID-19 at a time when the science, government's decisions, actions, advice and the consequences of the pandemic are changing rapidly? How we should handle the information overload, at a time of heightened stress, continuous pressure influencing our decision-making?

The following article by Guardian offers a simple strategy that should help you decide what is Right Information, what should be taken into consideration before we make a decision to share information on social media:

1. Consider the source
2. Be wary of preliminary scientific findings
3. Remember that stress affects decision-making
4. Think about the consequences before taking action
5. Remember that information and assumptions can change

**Coronavirus overload:  
five ways to fight misinformation and fear**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/22/coronavirus-overload-five-ways-to-fight-misinformation-and-fear>

