



AHPI & ANBAI - FAQs for Professionals

Is there any specific drug for COVID 2019?

Currently, there is no specific drug for COVID 2019. However, *Remdesivir* an antiviral has shown promising results in the testing phase.

Calvin J Gordon, et al The antiviral compound remdesivir potently inhibits RNA-dependent RNA polymerase from Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus J. Biol. Chem. jbc.AC120.013056. doi:10.1074/jbc.AC120.013056

Are there any alternate antiviral drugs for COVID 2019?

Anecdotal reports and small trials have shown few drugs used in other conditions to be supportive- *Lopinavir/Ritonavir* (HIV), *Hydroxyquinine* (Malaria) and *Oseltamivir* (Flu).

Wang, M., Cao, R., Zhang, L. et al. Remdesivir and chloroquine effectively inhibit the recently emerged novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in vitro. Cell Res 30, 269-271 (2020).

Are there any current vaccines effective against COVID 2019?

No, none of the current vaccines can accord protection in COVID 2019. However, several candidate vaccines are on trial and few of them may be approved very soon.

Candidate Vaccines WHO (<https://www.who.int/blueprint/priority-diseases/key-action/list-of-candidate-vaccines-developed-against-ncov.pdf>.)

How long can the virus survive in environmental surfaces and inanimate objects?

Coronavirus in biological fluids (of cough/sneeze/spit) can survive from 2 hours to 9 days, depending on (quantum of fluid, temperature, humidity, viral load etc).

Persistence of coronaviruses on inanimate surfaces and their inactivation with biocidal agents Kampf, G. et al. Journal of Hospital Infection, Volume 104, Issue 3, 246 - 251

What are the effective disinfectants against COVID 2019?

The following biocides are effective, but adequate contact time is required for hand as well as environmental disinfection. Ethanol (78-95%), 2-propanol (70-100%), povidone iodine (0.23- 7.5%) and NaOH 0.21% can inactivate the virus.

Persistence of coronaviruses on inanimate surfaces and their inactivation with biocidal agents Kampf, G. et al. Journal of Hospital Infection, Volume 104, Issue 3, 246 - 251

Can high environmental temperatures/ humidity reduce the transmission of COVID 2019?

Yes, humidity (80 % \geq) impedes transmission by reducing the distance of droplet dissemination and temperature (30°C \geq) is unfavorable for prolonged environmental survival. However, population density and recirculating air (AC Spaces) can still amplify transmission.

Effects of Air Temperature and Relative Humidity on Coronavirus Survival on Surfaces Lisa M. Casanova, Soyoung Jeon, William A. Rutala, David J. Weber, Mark D. Sobsey Applied and Environmental Microbiology Apr 2010, 76 (9) 2712-2717; DOI: 10.1128/AEM.02291-09

What types of masks are effective against aerosols/droplets containing Coronavirus?

3M N95 and N100 masks if worn properly can protect 95-99 % against the passage of coronavirus. The duration of wear has to be decided based on the risk and level of exposure. Regular surgical masks and hankies afford no protection.

Advice on the use of masks in the community, during home care and in health care settings in the context of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak: interim guidance. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/330987>

Can someone contract COVID 2019 again, after completely recovering from it?

Yes, they can contract it again. Natural infection does not afford long lasting immunity. Only an immunogenic vaccine (many in development) can protect against future infections.

Lan L, Xu D, Ye G, et al. Positive RT-PCR Test Results in Patients Recovered From COVID-19. JAMA. Published online February 27, 2020. doi:10.1001/jama.2020.2783