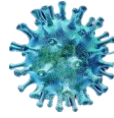




# COVID -2019



## AHPI & ANBAI - Myths debunked for Professionals

### **Myth- COVID 2019 is a Media hype; it is just a common cold coronavirus.**

**No**, several cold viruses belong to the family of coronaviridae, however COVID 2019 is an animal coronavirus that jumped into human population through exotic meat trade (Zoonoses).

### **Myth- COVID 2019 is a bioterror pathogen to depopulate the country or an accidental release or an intentional release by a rival nation.**

**No**, detailed analysis of the virus structure through genomic sequencing has shown no evidence of genetic manipulation. The virus is a naturally occurring animal coronavirus that has readapted itself to the human host.

### **Myth-COVID 2019- many ancient drugs are effective against this novel virus/disease.**

**No**, any such claims should be substantiated by *in vitro* (laboratory) and *in vivo* (clinical trials). Till date no medicine has fulfilled all criteria.

### **Myth-COVID 2019 has low fatality rate unlike MERS or SARS.**

While that is true, both MERS and SARS were localized and never became pandemics. There are still undiscovered properties of the virus and it would be too premature to underestimate the potential and the virulence of COVID 2019 based on fatality rate alone (transmission dynamics, communicability, immune evasion, mutation etc should be taken into consideration).

### **Myth- tweaking the immune system or immunostimulation will prevent COVID 2019.**

**No**, on the contrary hyperactivation of human immune system during COVID 2019 is the major reason for death through *cytokine storm* and *systemic inflammatory reactions*.

### **Myth- COVID 2019 affects only certain countries.**

**No**, it is a pandemic and affects all countries. However, certain countries may have higher cases due to proximity of the epicenter, increased travel, large population and inadequate public health.

### **Myth- COVID 2019 is only seen in temperate (cold) zones.**

**No**, there is a clear global distribution of the virus. Coronaviruses are winter propagating viruses, higher environmental temperatures and humidity certainly aids in containing the transmission. However, high population density and recirculating air systems as in air-conditioning can negate the benefits of higher temperatures and humidity. COVID 2019 is present in (warm) tropical zones also.

## **References**

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