

Corona Virus

The following is a summary of the article "*Coronavirus: Why You Must Act Now: Politicians, Community Leaders and Business Leaders: What Should You Do and When*" by Tomas Pueyo (link to the full article: <https://medium.com/@tomaspueyo/coronavirus-act-today-or-people-will-die-f4d3d9cd99ca>). This was the clearest article I have read on the coronavirus, so I wanted it to get out to lots of people. However, the original is somewhat long, with lots of statistics, graphs, and sources, so I decided to summarize the crucial points for anyone who might not have time to read the whole thing.

What does the virus do?

- The corona virus attacks the lungs.
- The virus enters the body via the nose and mouth, and possibly the eyes (particularly if you touch your eyes after touching an infected surface).
- You can get infected if an infected person coughs within 2 meters of you, or by touching a surface (like a door handle or elevator button) after an infected person touched it. The virus can live on surfaces for up to 9 days.
- The majority (80%) of infections are mild, but about 20% of cases require hospitalization, and a quarter of those cases require the Intensive Care Unit.
- The death rate is much higher for older people (goes up with age).
- You can feel perfectly fine but be infected and contagious for up to 14 days before showing any symptoms.
- So far, the death rate for countries that are well prepared (such as South Korea and China) may be 0.5 – 0.9%, but for countries that are overwhelmed (such as Italy and Iran), 3 to 5 people out of every 100 cases may die.

The spread of the virus

- Because an infected person can take 14 days to show symptoms, and because the virus spreads so easily between people, the number of reported cases is many times smaller than the number of actual cases, possibly by thousands. To estimate the actual number of cases in an area, one can look at the number of deaths. If there is one person in an area who dies of the virus, that means that there may be 800 actual cases.
- The number of cases grows exponentially if not contained (after a certain threshold, doubling every two days).

How to stop the spread

- SOCIAL DISTANCING: avoiding all contact with other people that is not absolutely necessary
- China and South Korea managed to slow the spread by shutting down cities completely.

- Every day that people continue to have regular contact with each other will increase the number of cases exponentially, possibly leading to the medical system crashing, with many deaths.
- STAY HOME! Now, not tomorrow – every day counts when the number of new cases is growing exponentially. For example, in Hubei, China, if they had declared a lockdown on January 22 instead of January 23, they might have reduced the number of cases by 20,000.