

CORONAVIRUS?

WHAT IS ACTUALLY HAPPENING?

WES IN ACTION

HOW BAD IS IT?

WHAT CAN I DO TO
HELP?

HOW CONCERNED
SHOULD WE BE?



The main purposes of this article are:

- 1. to provide people with some basic information about the 2019 novel coronavirus;*
- 2. to raise the awareness of potential racial discrimination on campus and to ask everyone to be compassionate towards one another during this special time;*
- 3. to advocate for practical actions that can help Wuhan get through this crisis.*

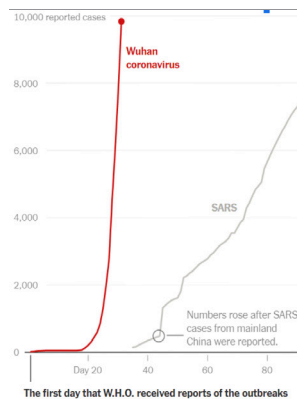
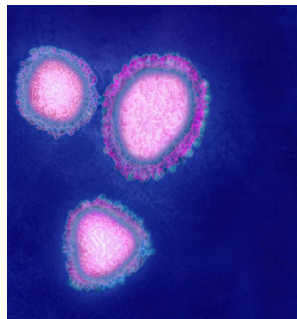
How concerned should we be?

The R_0 value, or basic reproduction rate, is the average number of people to whom an infected person will pass the disease. The basic reproduction rate is not an intrinsic property of the infection. Because this number is based on real-life statistics, the basic reproduction rate will change depending on control measures, such as travel restrictions and quarantine. Therefore, the only way to end the coronavirus outbreak is to bring the R_0 to between 0 and 1. While the data are quite preliminary, scientists estimate that “without effective containment measures,” the R_0 value is 1.5-3.5. *In other words, if the spread of the virus is not controlled, each infected person will pass the coronavirus to between on average 1.5 and 3.5 people* (Sheikh, NYT). Take these numbers with a grain of salt: Effective control implementations can lower the R_0 considerably, as happened with SARS and Ebola. Because the infection spreads at an exponential rate, the current trend in Wuhan coronavirus infectivity seems somewhat alarming. *Luckily, this news about the infection rate isn't the only factor in determining how dangerous the Wuhan coronavirus is.*

“The novel coronavirus strain that originated in Wuhan has been attracting a lot of attention from our friends and family. Regardless of the true severity of this new disease, we want to be compassionate towards those who feel concern for their loved ones. With that said, is the coronavirus something that we at Wesleyan have reason to fear?”

While the fatality rate is admittedly difficult to estimate, we know that it is probably less than 3%. (Sheikh, NYT). Dr. Michael Ryan of the WHO stated an estimated fatality rate of 2% at a UN press conference (WHO), largely based on testing of pneumonia cases admitted to hospital. While the first recognized cases of the Wuhan coronavirus were severe, there are thought to be many infected people with milder symptoms who thought they had the common cold and simply got better. There may also have been infected people who died without being diagnosed because of understaffed and underequipped hospitals in central China. *Either way, a ballpark estimate for the lethality rate is below 3% among people sick enough to seek medical attention.*

A ballpark estimate for the lethality rate is below 3%.



The observed fatality rate of less than 3% is an average taken from observed statistics. Many of the people who have died of coronavirus were older and/or otherwise immunosuppressed people (Grady, NYT). An analogous situation is seasonal influenza, AKA the flu. Those who die from the flu also tend to be older people with other health issues. While the flu has a much lower case fatality rate (<0.1%),

The fatality rate would probably be even lower for the Wesleyan student population.

that portion of the population. At the time of writing, we do not have reason to believe that the coronavirus is at Wesleyan, but we hope to remain aware of each other's differences in concerns because of differences

Considering that most Wes students are 18-22, the theoretical coronavirus fatality rate for Wes students would be likely to be significantly lower than 3%.

a young previously healthy person with coronavirus has much less to worry about than an average coronavirus patient (Sheikh, NYT).

We would like to acknowledge that these statistics do not apply to everyone at Wesleyan. *Some of us may be immunosuppressed or have other health complications.* We do not wish to trivialize

in vulnerability to infectious disease. *This merely underscores the need to take standard hygienic precautions.* The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends methods that include washing one's hands, sneezing or coughing into your elbow or a tissue rather than into your hand, and avoiding other people who display symptoms of infectious disease (WHO, Advice for public).

W E S

W I T H



DESIGNED BY
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W U H A N

Putting It All Into Perspective

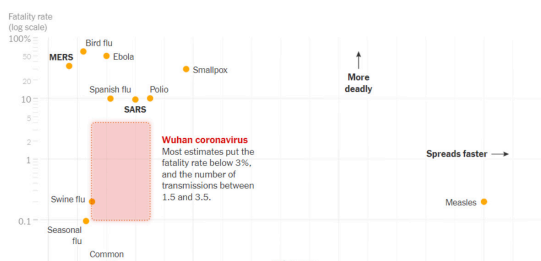
Our aim is to be as compassionate as possible about people's fears concerning this outbreak. The idea of an invisible and sometimes lethal threat is, after all, pretty scary. But what happens if we compare the global fatality of this disease with some standard causes of death? As of February 10, 2020, there have been more than 1013 deaths and almost 42,500 confirmed cases of coronavirus.

We are still in the early stages of the spread of infection, so this number is bound to increase quickly. The leading cause of death in the USA is heart disease, with about 647,000 deaths occurring each year (CDC, Heart Disease Facts). Influenza in the US alone has caused more than 8,000 deaths in the past two months.

These deaths occur every single year, but they simply do not have the same type of fear factor as the 2019 novel coronavirus. We cannot say how far the mortality rate of coronavirus will rise.

We can take notice, however, that coronavirus has not killed as many people as those other causes of death. This statement is not meant to trivialize any fear or suffering that the coronavirus has caused so far—our hearts go out to those in Wuhan. Many people in Wuhan have been isolated for extended periods of time with food and medicine shortages. The purpose of these comparisons is to remind people at Wes that there are other causes of death that we rarely pay attention to. While we understand why people might be afraid, our level of fear often can be dis-

Every year during the last decade, however, 12,000-61,000 people in the USA have died of seasonal influenza AKA the flu (CDC, Disease Burden of Influenza)



proportionate to the true danger of coronavirus. As coronavirus spreads, we may gain more reason to be concerned, but that time has not yet come.

We have no idea whether coronavirus will spread to Wesleyan. It would be impossible to offer an accurate guess about the future of the disease. We do know, however, that if coronavirus were to come to Wes, it is unlikely to infect everyone and the fatality risk among those who become ill would be considerably lower than the global average of 2-3% because of our generally young student population and the likelihood that many would not get disease severe enough to even merit testing.

WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP

DONATION

Pathway 1: Wuhan United - Huazhong University of Science and Technology
What they accept or look for: supplies and money

Paypal: hustaa.sea@gmail.com

Choose "paytofriends" to avoid fees.

Zelle: hustaa.sea@gmail.com

Please make sure to include your name, donation purpose ("2019-nCoV Wuhan") in the note
Pathway 2: Wuhan University Alumni Association of North California with Direct Relief

What they accept or look for: supplies and money, but prefer supplies more at this point

Direct Relief: https://secure.directrelief.org/site/Donation2?df_id=2924&mfc_pref=T&2924.donation=form1

(Please choose "Direct my donation to Emergency Preparedness and Response")

Paypal: info@wuhanuniversity.org

WHY DONATE

1. the outbreak of news regarding corruption in mainstream charity organizations has made us suspicious of organizations that have direct links to the local government.
2. various legal and practical constraints exist when it comes to direct fundraising.

Directly donating USD to Chinese hospitals faces the legal risk of accusations of money laundering. Medical supplies are sold out at all major vendors even in the US, but we welcome help with the endeavor to locate supplies.



WAYS THAT YOU CAN HELP

ARE THEY TRUSTWORTHY

Yes, they are, as far as we can confirm

We have been very careful in choosing an organization to partner with, and after closely studying the few organizations that currently receive donations in the United States, we have confidence that the Wuhan University Alumni Association is the most trustworthy one we can find so far given that they have established a reliable channel to ship materials through the border customs and have a demonstrated record of prompt delivery.

Each of them is either itself a verified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, or has partnered with one. The Wuhan University Alumni Association is a verified 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in fundraising.

They have been promptly using donation money to buy medical supplies and sending them to hospitals in Wuhan for the past few weeks.

(As of Jan. 31, 2020, a total of more than 230,000 medical masks, 2,500 protective medical overalls, and 102,500 surgical gloves have been sent to hospitals in Wuhan by the two branches of the Wuhan University Alumni Association).

The material and information contained in this brochure is for general information purposes only. All information related to donation and related organizations are translated directly from the official websites and social media accounts of those organizations. While we endeavor to make sure the reliability of our chosen donation organizations and have done as much fact-check as we can related to those organizations, we do not make warranties about the completeness, reliability and accuracy of information related to the chosen donation organizations. Any action you take upon the information from this brochure is strictly at your own risk, and Wesleyan University and members of Wes In Action will not be liable for any losses and damages in connection with the chosen donation organizations.

Scan this QR Code to See More Detailed Credentials and Keep Track of the Latest Update of Supply Delivery!





Hospitals in Wuhan are in shortage of medical resources.

Image1. Nurses cut their hair to save time in changing
Image3. Doctors write their names on medical protective clothing for recognition

WES WITH WUHAN

It is crucial
to show compas-
sion and respect
around campus
and online at
a time when ra-
cial identity
is especially
vulnerable to
xenophobia and
bigotry.

WES WITH WUHAN

Thanks for reading!

For inquiries or suggestions for the article,
please contact: mtan01@wesleyan.edu, ocho@wesleyan.edu.

If you would like to learn more, please explore the items in our bibliography, as well as Wesleyan's emergency response plan guidelines: <https://www.wesleyan.edu/ehs/WesleyanEmergencyResponsePlan2014.pdf>

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