Coronaviruses

I've got a cold. We are not the “common cold” you expect!!

Hey human, thanks for letting us stay in your body!

ACHOO!

Are you okay? Thank you. Take care.

What does NOVEL mean?

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that can cause the common cold and/or disease. A novel coronavirus is a new coronavirus that was found in 2019. New types of viruses have been identified before; for example, we already know of two types of coronaviruses that cause the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

What makes this novel coronavirus DANGEROUS?

The major concern is the degree of infectivity and severity of the disease range even though certain viruses are in the same family. The scary part is that we have yet to fully understand the characteristics of this novel coronavirus and how to protect ourselves.

Plus, a novel virus, including the novel coronavirus can easily spread; and symptoms that are caused by a novel virus may become severe. In addition, it may take a longer time to recover. These impacts and difficulties come from the fact that our body has not prepared for that virus. When many of us are infected at the same time, it is a difficult time for our schools and companies. To avoid this problem, it is important to prevent the wide and rapid spread of the virus by limiting social contact.

Are viruses coming from other animals?

Today’s novel coronavirus is believed to come from a Bat coronavirus. Viruses evolve rapidly, so it is possible that we may face other “novel” viruses in the future.

It is a problem if the number of infected people suddenly increases.

When many of us are infected at the same time...

This is why our school was closed.

It is easier to handle when it spreads gradually and slowly among people.

How can we deal with “novel viruses”?

There are a lot of unknown sources of disease on the Earth, including the ones which rapidly evolve and change their characteristics. Sources of disease easily move across the sea with humans or commercial products. It is no wonder, not if, but when the next “novel” infectious diseases emerge.

In recent years, Japan has experienced only a few novel infectious diseases, but it does not mean that we can always prevent an unknown disease. It is crucial to work on better measures based on previous experiences and lessons.

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