

How to deal with a virus outbreak.

Background:

I work at a pharmaceutical company in which a few years ago gloves were introduced in response to system contaminations (2—5%). Although after discovery the product from these system contaminations was destroyed it was a FDA requirement to reduce these system contaminations to 0.

These gloves worked extremely well. Gloves prevented bacteria from our hands to the surface areas of our production systems.

Current situation. Novel Corona outbreak.

Now let us look at the current virus outbreak in Asia and look at what they are doing. Almost 10% of the world's population is being put under quarantine and we are facing major supply chain disruptions in spring.

Keeping people away from their work is far more devastating than the virus itself.

Proposed situation:

Gloves prevent viral unload against surfaces (infection of others) and prevent self-infection (touching the face).

During an outbreak: Let the general public in an outbreak area wear disinfectable gloves (spreading disease by hand) commuting and doing groceries. Once people get home or get to work disinfect gloves, take them off and store.

Instruction: Touch the **outside** of the door and house key with gloves. Take of outside clothing (coat) and store. Disinfect (water with sodium hypochlorite solution or hydrogen peroxide) gloves and house key prior to closing door. Store gloves and close door on the **inside** with the disinfected key and without gloves. Store door key away from outside garments.

@home :Do not touch surfaces that came in contact with gloves prior to disinfection. Even if it means disinfecting the disinfection bottle!.

The best would be if you have a bucket of water and disinfectant just behind your door. Keep away from little children!. A hot (h)air dryer could work as well but it needs sufficient down flow.

In general:

During the wearing of gloves do not touch your face and do not shake hands with someone who does not wear gloves. You can shake hands at work or at home.

Outdoor clothes / wallet:

There are items that need to be touched by gloves outside of your house.

Store your coat as close to the outdoor as you can. Preferably keep your wallet inside of your coat. Wash your outdoor coat/clothes and wallet very frequently during an outbreak. I am not an epidemiologist so I can't give you guidance on how often. While handling these outdoor clothes/ or wallet wear gloves and disinfect gloves after handling.

Mask or not?:

A lot of people do not know how to wear a mask properly. A mask causes self-infection (basically what you breath out you are also breathing back in causing a huge viral load inside your body.)

A mask can be useful if you have the disease but you don't want your family members or other people contracting it. If you live or work close to elderly people(that are susceptible for a disease) it can be wise wearing a mask. In crowded public transport it is also advisable to wear masks.

It is my opinion that most viruses are contracted by hand. Think about items that many people touch such as money, pin code /ATM machines, doors to shops or public buildings, Lean rails on stairways, counters, buttons on elevators or traffic lights etc. etc. Even the mailman's hand held signature device can give you a virus.

Therefore gloves that can be disinfected/sterilized.

Regards,

Ivo van der Rijt.



Extra tip. Pocket gloves for storing of house key and credit card. Image is probably copy wright protected. For education purposes only. I hold no assets in Vail and I don't know how good they can handle disinfectant.