

CORONAVIRUS VS. THE FLU

WHY SHOULD WE WORRY ABOUT COVID-19? DR. NADYA DOMINIQUE SPELLS IT OUT



NADYA DOMINIQUE
Column

As the world started hearing more and more about COVID-19, many people started grumbling that it was nowhere near as bad as the flu.

So, why all the fuss? Why should we worry?

Is COVID-19 really worse than the flu?

While the estimated number of flu cases annually is far greater than the number of COVID-19 cases so far, the death rate of COVID-19 is about 3 per cent*,

whereas the death rate of the flu is about 0.1 per cent, which means that COVID-19 seems to be about 30 times* deadlier than the flu. Let's crunch some numbers so that we can really see what the fuss is about.

As an example, let's take a look at our neighbours to the south (the numbers work out nicely).

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates there were approximately 35,000,000 cases of influenza during the 2018/2019 season in the United States.

Of that total amount, they estimate about 491,000 hospitalizations and approximately 35,000 deaths.

$35,000/35,000,000 = .001 \times 100 = 0.1$ per cent. There's that 0.1 per cent death rate.

For comparison, if we use the same number of total flu cases for the CO-

VID-19 calculation, let's take a look at what the numbers would be.

So, 35 million cases**. What is 3 per cent of 35,000,000?

$3/100 = .03 \times 35,000,000 = 1,050,000$

If exactly the same number of people who typically get the flu every year get COVID-19, that would mean that there could be more than one million deaths due to COVID-19, compare to 35,000 due to the flu, in the U.S. alone.

So, yes, COVID-19 is worse than the flu.

That's what all the fuss is about.

Extreme measures are being taken for a reason.

** These numbers are based on preliminary research and are subject to change as more people recover and less new cases develop, but it is the generally accepted estimate right now.*

*** Due to interventions that are being taken throughout the world, the number of coronavirus cases is significantly lower than estimated flu cases.*

Nadya Dominique is a family doctor. She can be reached at DearDoctorD@gmail.com.

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Q

I have a divorce order that provides me with regular access to my children. My spouse is refusing to let me see the children due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am not infected, and I am not subject to a requirement to self-isolate or self-quarantine. Can my spouse do that?

A

These are uncertain and unprecedented times. I and my firm wish for the health and safety of our community and all the people of the world. Despite the state of emergency imposed by the Province of Ontario, existing court orders must still be adhered to and respected. A parent might feel that he or she is protecting the children by keeping them from the other parent, but the other parent still has rights as defined in a court order. Law and order must continue. There is still a legal process that must be followed, and we are not to take the law into our own hands. The courts, including family courts, have been closed until further notice. However, the courts are still hearing urgent or emergency matters. A parent denied time with children may be able to proceed to court on an urgent basis to ensure his or her rights are preserved. Of course, exchange of children is to take place in a safe manner that ensures the children cannot come in contact with the COVID-19 virus, following the recommendations of experts and our governments, e.g. proper hand washing, hand sanitizer, social distancing from others, etc. We do a lot of family/divorce law. Our offices remain open to help clients as lawyers have been deemed an essential service. I am happy to provide you with a free 1/2 hour consultation. Be healthy and safe one and all.

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Todd C. Hein
Partner
Family/Divorce Lawyer

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