

Forum: United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Issue: COVID-19 Pandemic and Strategies That Can Be Made For It

Student Officer: Toygar Baykal

Position: President Chair

INTRODUCTION

Fellow delegates of the UNCSTD Committee,

First of all I greet you all and would like to share our study guide which may help you to prepare for the sessions. I will not get to the details here but as we all know, the world is facing an extraordinary situation, the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the beginning of the period, thousands of people have been infected and thousands will be infected unfortunately. Some of them have won their war against the virus, some are still struggling with it and some have sadly lost their war. Actually that war belongs to everyone because the virus is a threat to all of us. It neither chooses its target depending on that person's social status nor his or her race. With that being a fact, we believe that the world needs new solution ideas, projects and suggestions mostly about that crisis today. So we thought that combining science and technology is the most beneficial method to come up with new ideas for the current crisis. Hopefully there will be a fruitful time where we share, discuss agree and finally end up with new ideas.

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Disease: (an) illness of people, animals, plants, etc., caused by infection or a failure of health rather than by an accident

Immunosuppressive: preventing the immune system from reacting to antigens, for example in order to prevent transplanted organs from being rejected

Incubation: the process in which a bird, etc. keeps its eggs warm until the young come out, or the process in which an egg develops until the stage at which the young come out

Infectious: (of a disease) able to be passed from one person, animal, or plant to another

Outbreak: a time when something suddenly begins, especially a disease or something else dangerous or unpleasant

Pandemic: (of a disease) existing in almost all of an area or in almost all of a group of people, animals, or plants

Protrusions: something that sticks out from a surface, or the act of doing this

Respiratory: relating to breathing

Secretions: the process by which an animal or plant produces and releases a liquid, or the liquid produced:

GENERAL OVERVIEW

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is an infectious disease that caused by SARS-CoV-2. IT was first identified in December 2019 in China's Wuhan city. Since that, it has spread globally and resulted being a pandemic.

What is Coronavirus?

Coronavirus is a large family of viruses. It consists of "genetic material" in its middle part, the part called "envelope" around it, and "protein protrusions". The corona virus is a disease that was detected in 1960, with several varieties. The virus, which is seen mostly in animals, has also been seen in humans for the first time.

What Are The Symptoms Of COVID-19?

A high fever that starts suddenly after an incubation period lasting 2-14 days... It manifests itself with respiratory symptoms such as cough and shortness of breath. Some patients may also have a sore throat and runny nose. The disease usually shows a moderate to severe clinical course. Severe disease suffered as the majority of people who lost their lives because of this disease, and elderly (65 years and older), those of the underlying disease, lung diseases, organ failure, cancer, diabetes, immunosuppressive diseases, organ transplantation consists of those people who are using drugs that suppress the immune system. In young healthy adults, the disease is relatively mild.

How is COVID-19 diagnosed?

COVID-19 is diagnosed with specially developed diagnostic kits. However, the following symptoms should be observed in order for the diagnosis to be made in the clinical examination.

- Persistent of coughing fits
- The fever with unknown origin which does not decrease
- Nausea that can't stop
- Intestinal problems (diarrhea)
- Difficulty in breathing and shortness of breath

How Is It Transmitted?

The new Coronavirus, (with its newly given name Covid-19) is thought to be transmitted by respiratory secretions like other coronaviruses. Cough, sneezing, laughing and speaking from people with the virus spread to the environment containing respiratory secretions droplets, sound people's mouth, nose and eyes by contact with the cause of these people to become sick. In this way, human-to-human transmission of the disease requires closer contact than 1 meter.

According to today's information, it can be said that the New Coronavirus (CoVid-19) is not transmitted by food such as meat, milk, eggs. It is necessary to separate the Influenza virus from the corona virus. Antigenic change in influenza happens very quickly. Influenza is a disease-making, spreading force of influenza faster and more. SARS, Mers Cov and new Corona viruses have different antigenic structures and are different.

The latest outbreak is claimed to have been transmitted by eating seafood in the city of Wuhan, although the ethological source is not yet clear. The corona virus has been found to pass from different seafood to humans. It is then transmitted not by those who eat these foods, but by the respiratory output of the people who receive the microbe, to those around them. Later, it is claimed that it was infected with healthcare workers.

TIMELINE OF THE MAJOR EVENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC

- March 3, 2020** — Coronavirus cases begin to sharply increase in Spain.
- March 8, 2020** — Italy places all 60 million of its residents on lockdown.
- March 11, 2020** — WHO declares the outbreak a **pandemic**.
- March 11, 2020** — President Trump **bans all travel** from 26 European countries.
- March 13, 2020** — Trump declares a **national emergency** in the US.
- March 19, 2020** — China reports no new locally spread infections for the first time since the pandemic began.
- March 23, 2020** — **New York City confirms 21,000 cases**, making it the epicenter of the outbreak in the US.
- March 26, 2020** — Total confirmed cases in the **US reach 82,404** — the highest in the world — surpassing China's 81,782 and Italy's 80,589.

- March 31, 2020** — **More than 1/3** of humanity is under some form of lockdown.
- April 2, 2020** — The world passes **1 million** COVID-19 infections.
- April 7, 2020** — Roughly **95%** of all Americans are under lockdown, as 42 states issue stay-at-home orders.
- April 10, 2020** — The global death toll surpasses **100,000**.
- April 14, 2020** — President Donald Trump orders a halt on \$400 million in funding for the World Health Organization.
- May 11, 2020** — Several countries, such as Spain, Iran, Italy, Denmark, Israel, Germany, New Zealand, and Thailand, begin to ease their lockdown restrictions.
- May 21, 2020** — The number of global COVID-19 cases surpasses **5 million**.

- December 31, 2019** — Chinese Health officials inform the WHO about a cluster of **41 patients** with a mysterious pneumonia. Most are connected to Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market.
- January 1, 2020** — Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market closes.
- January 7, 2020** — Chinese authorities identify the virus that caused the pneumonia-like illness as a new type of coronavirus (called novel coronavirus or nCoV).
- January 11, 2020** — China records its **first death** linked to the novel coronavirus.
- January 13, 2020** — Thailand reports the first coronavirus infection outside of China.
- January 20, 2020** — The first US case is reported: a 35-year-old man in Snohomish County, Washington.
- January 23, 2020** — Chinese authorities place the city of Wuhan under quarantine — and the rest of the Hubei province days later.
- January 30, 2020** — WHO declares a global public-health emergency.

- January 31, 2020** — President Trump bans foreign nationals from entering the US if they had been in China within the prior two weeks.
- February 2, 2020** — **The first coronavirus death** outside China is recorded in the Philippines.
- February 6, 2020** — A person in California dies from the coronavirus, **the first known American death**.
- February 7, 2020** — Chinese doctor and coronavirus whistleblower Li Wenliang dies.
- February 9, 2020** — Death toll in China surpasses that of the 2002-2003 SARS epidemic, with 811 deaths recorded.
- February 11, 2020** — WHO announces that the disease caused by the novel coronavirus will be called **"COVID-19."**
- February 12, 2020** — Coronavirus cases start to spike in South Korea.
- February 19, 2020** — Iran's coronavirus outbreak begins.
- February 21, 2020** — COVID-19 cases start to spike in Italy.

**MAJ
OR
PAR
TIES
INV
OLV
ED**

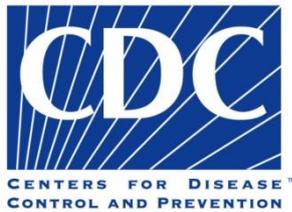
IN THIS PERIOD OF TIME

World Health Organization



The World Health Organization is specialized agency of the United Nations, responsible for international public health.

Centers For Disease Control And Prevention



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is the leading, national public health institute of the United States. Its main goal is to protect public health and safety through the control and prevention of disease, injury, and disability in the US and internationally.

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control



The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) is an independent agency of the European Union (EU) whose mission is to strengthen Europe's defenses against infectious diseases. The Centre was established in 2004 and is located in Solna, Sweden.

PREVIOUS TECHNOLOGICAL ATTEMPTS AND PROJECTS

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

At a time of severe crunch of healthcare professionals and the risk of people-to-people contact, autonomous vehicles are proving to be of great utility in delivering essential goods like medicines and food items. Idriverplus, a Chinese self-driving company that operates electric street cleaning vehicles, is also a part of the mission. The company's flagship vehicles are being used to disinfect hospitals.



HEALTH SENSORS AND APPS

Utilizing its sophisticated and expansive surveillance network for public good, the Chinese government joined hands with tech giants Alibaba and Tencent to develop a color-coded health rating system that is tracking millions of people daily. The smartphone app was first deployed in Hangzhou in collaboration with from Alibaba. It assigns three colors to people — green, yellow and red — on the basis of their travel and medical histories.

Whether a person should be quarantined or allowed in public spaces was decided based on the color code. Citizens had to log into the app using pay wallet services like Alibaba's Alipay, Ant's wallet, etc. Only those people who were assigned a green color code could be allowed in public spheres after using the designated QR code at metro stations, offices and other public places.

ROBOTICS

From preparing meals at hospitals, doubling up as waiters in restaurants, spraying disinfectants to vending rice and dispensing hand sanitizers, robots were on the frontline to prevent the spread of Coronavirus. In many hospitals, robots were also performing diagnosis and conducting thermal imaging. Shenzhen-based company Multicopter is using robots to transport medical samples.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

When coming up with solutions, delegates should try to answer some of these questions:

- To what point has the quarantine process brought the role of the technology in our lives?
- What kind of policies can be followed in order to take the least amount of negative impact of the technology during the pandemic?



- What other projects could be developed for the sake of the humanity against the COVID-19 pandemic, using the benefits of science and technology?

SOURCES

<https://www.geospatialworld.net/article/the-sino-approach-use-of-technology-to-combat-covid-19/>

<https://www.businessinsider.com/coronavirus-pandemic-timeline-history-major-events-2020-3>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page