



# WELCOME MD

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WellcomeMD's Dr. Neal Carl has a featured column in the Richmond Times-Dispatch [dispelling rumors surrounding COVID-19](#), particularly those that have been perpetuated on social media. Among the topics he covered:

## **Is the seasonal influenza virus (flu) more dangerous?**

No. In fact, the fatality rate is approximately 0.6%, while COVID-19 has a fatality rate of two to three times that.

## **Does the coronavirus only affect the elderly?**

Emphatically, no. It can affect anyone regardless of age. It is a new virus, it has just emerged, and everyone on the planet is susceptible and should be taking the necessary precautions.

## **Are anti-malarial medications being used to treat COVID-19?**

Yes and no. A recent report from an infectious disease specialist in France showed hydroxychloroquine (Plaquenil) to be effective for at least 12 patients. This has not been peer-reviewed and still is very much in its testing phase.

As Dr. Carl said in his column, we are in uncharted territory. This is a global pandemic in a time where technology gives us access to an unprecedented amount of information, good or bad, 24-hours a day. We are here to help keep you and your loved ones safe and healthy. If you have any questions about COVID-19, please contact your physician or our office.

## **New research on how coronavirus spreads**

Advice on avoiding infection has usually emphasized that it spreads through coughs, sneezes and airborne droplets. New [anecdotal evidence](#) and [research](#)

suggests, though, that infected persons with no symptoms may exhale an airborne mist in which the virus could stay infectious for a half-hour or longer.

"This makes social distancing of *six feet or more* even more critically important," WellcomeMD's Dr. Matt Acampora says.

The Centers for Disease Control's Director, Dr. Robert Redfield, said this week that as many as 25 percent of infected people may not show symptoms.

"This helps explain how rapidly this virus continues to spread across the country," Dr. Redfield, said [in an interview](#) Tuesday.

For that reason, the CDC is reconsidering its guidelines on [who should wear masks](#).

WellcomeMD.com, 2500 Gaskins Rd, Suite A, Richmond, VA 23238, United States, (804) 774-7099

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