

COVID-19 questions answered by a Mayo Clinic expert

March 25 2020, by From Mayo Clinic News Network



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

There are many questions, misconceptions and concerns as the COVID-19 pandemic response continues. Dr. Gregory Poland, an infectious diseases expert and director of Mayo Clinic's Vaccine

Research Group, answered some questions of the day:

Can drugs, including chloroquine, be used to treat COVID-19?

"There are laboratory reasons to think some of these drugs might work. However, what they require are [clinical trials](#) in order to know that for sure. We want to know that any antiviral or drug that we use will help and not harm in the context of this disease."

Can we use plasma from recovered patients to treat COVID-19?

"Using plasma or human antibodies to treat COVID-19 is an important strategy. It was used in 1918 with the influenza pandemic. Using plasma is a polyclonal approach. There are also laboratory methods by which you can make a monoclonal antibody, and both of those are going to be tried."

What are misconceptions about COVID-19?

"There are a lot of misconceptions," says Dr. Poland. "Young people don't develop severe disease. That's not true. That [hand sanitizer](#) is better than hand-washing. That's not true. And some terrible internet rumors circulating that some people are sucking on [disinfectant wipes](#), gargling with dilute bleach, putting bleach into a cotton plug and putting them into their nose, or doing the same kinds of things to their pets. These are harmful, unhelpful, and (there are) no data to support their use."

What if a housemate has the virus?

"If you have someone in your home that you know is infected with this virus, or has symptoms compatible with it, they get their own room, ideally with an open window. They stay in that room unless they come out with a mask and others are not in close proximity. You don't have meals together. And the surfaces of anything they touch need to be regularly disinfected."

©2020 Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research
Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Citation: COVID-19 questions answered by a Mayo Clinic expert (2020, March 25) retrieved 24 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2020-03-covid-mayo-clinic-expert.html>

<p>This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.</p>
--