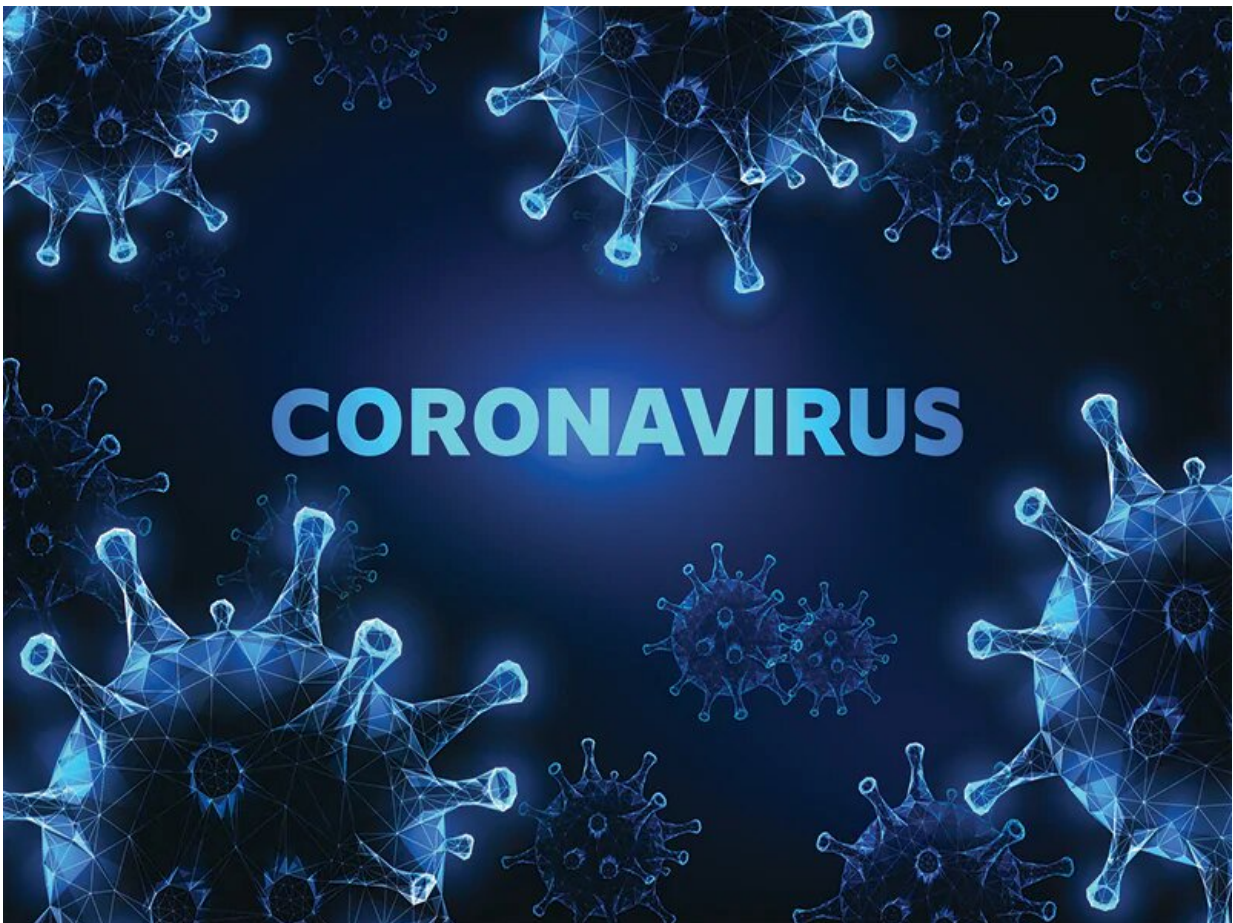


# Almost all COVID-19 patients have diminished sense of smell

April 30 2020

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Quantitative smell testing shows that decreased smell function is a major

marker for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection, according to a study published online April 17 in the *International Forum of Allergy & Rhinology*.

Shima T. Moein, M.D., Ph.D., from the Institute for Research in Fundamental Sciences in Tehran, Iran, and colleagues administered the University of Pennsylvania Smell Identification Test (UPSIT), a validated 40-odorant test, to 60 confirmed COVID-19 inpatients and 60 age- and sex-matched controls to evaluate the magnitude and frequency of their olfactory dysfunction.

The researchers found that 98 percent of the COVID-19 patients exhibited some smell dysfunction (mean UPSIT score, 20.98 versus 34.10 in controls; P test scores and sex, disease severity, or comorbidities).

"Quantitative smell testing demonstrates that decreased smell function, but not always anosmia, is a major marker for SARS-CoV-2 infection and suggests the possibility that smell testing may help, in some cases, to identify COVID-19 patients in need of early treatment or quarantine," conclude the authors.

One author reports financial ties to the pharmaceutical and medical device industry, including Sensonics International, the manufacturer and distributor of the [smell test](#) used in the study.

**More information:** [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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