



Laboratory Certification | Test Verification | Member Education

## Coronavirus Information

Much is still unknown about the COVID-19 (Wuhan) virus. The virus is thought to spread mainly:

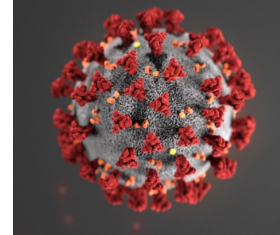
1. Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet)
2. Via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
3. By droplets landing in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly inhaled into the lungs.<sup>(1)</sup>

Current knowledge is largely based on what is known about similar coronaviruses. The CDC is recommending that health officials isolate individuals with COVID-19 infections similarly to how individuals with influenza are isolated.

No specific antiviral agent is available for treatment of the COVID-19 infection, and there is no vaccine. Treatment is supportive and includes supplemental oxygen and fluid management. Infection control measures are an integral part of managing the spread of the virus.<sup>(3)</sup>

*More information is available to IAC Members by e-mailing*  
Director@amcouncil.org

## Coronavirus Concerns & Antimicrobial Testing



### Warnings

The Better Business Bureau in the United States and several governments worldwide have cautioned the public to beware of scams that have developed as a result of the COVID-19 Coronavirus. As the BBB has indicated “Scammers love to take advantage of our fears, and the spread of a new disease like coronavirus is downright scary.”<sup>(2)</sup>

### Unethical Behavior

Unfortunately there are those in every industry that will try to take advantage of the Coronavirus scare to promote themselves or their products as something they are not. Before buying into a company’s latest press release or advertisements the public should investigate the claims being made and substantiate them by comparing those claims against facts released from reputable sources like the CDC, WHO and other reliable health organizations.

Anytime an individual or company reports test results without appropriate control sample comparisons, whether for antiviral or antimicrobial testing, the ethics of the individual or company should come into question. Such reports are disconcerting when they are provided in support of aesthetic claims such as odor control, but when public health could be impacted during a potential pandemic such as the one that China is currently facing such reports should be considered extremely irresponsible.

### Why the IAC is Concerned

As a not-for-profit NGO, the IAC mission is to protect the public from the potential abuses of antimicrobials by educating antimicrobial users, producers and laboratories regarding the appropriate use and development of appropriate test methods, procedures and standards.<sup>(4)</sup>

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>
2. <https://www.bbb.org/article/news-releases/21482-scam-alert-preparing-for-coronavirus-that-face-mask-could-be-a-con>
3. <https://www.elsevier.com/connect/coronavirus-information-center>
4. International Antimicrobial Council Mission Statement