

LETTER TO EDITORS

THREE NOTICEABLE ISSUES ON NOVEL CORONAVIRUS: A QUICK LOOK FROM VIETNAM'S CIRCUMSTANCES

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Coronavirus; Vietnam; issues; nurse

Dear Editors,

Novel Coronavirus officially COVID-19 has been detected since December 2019 and it has become a global health issue concern today. According to the statistics from the Vietnam's Ministry of Health, until 13 February 2020, Vietnam has fifteen positive cases with COVID-19, which one of those is a 3-month-old baby ([Ministry of Health, 2020](#)). It is estimated that the COVID-19 outbreak will be reached the top in the next ten days due to the excessive worrying and wrong behaviors towards the virus ([Thu, 2020](#)). In this letter, the author presents three noticeable issues based on the current situation in Vietnam and efforts that nurses should do.

Fake news about COVID-19 in social media has become a big problem in Vietnam. It makes the public confused and unable to clarify the information. Nurses must provide the reliable information from a trustworthy source, such as from the Ministry of Health or World Health Organization.

Wrong health behaviors are likely related to misinformation and misunderstand about the prevention of COVID-19 like in the following examples: 1) The use of mask, people in community believe that wearing a mask can absolutely prevent the virus without doing any other efforts. In fact, wearing the mask is just one of the approaches according to [World Health Organization \(2020a\)](#) and [Ministry of Health \(2020\)](#); 2) Dry alcohol, which people prefer to use for washing hands rather than using clean water and soap. In fact, both alcohol and clean water with soap are equally effective; 3) Misuse of antibiotics and supplements; and 4) Afraid to go to hospitals and pharmacies because people think that the virus is easily transmitted in these places. Therefore, nurses must educate the people in community clearly about what they should and should not do to prevent the virus, such as explaining about the correct and regular way of hand washing, the risks

and symptoms of the virus, and telling that wearing the mask is not only way to prevent the virus, and giving a health education about the use of antibiotics and supplements, and not to be afraid to go to hospitals or pharmacies. It is also suggested for the people to cover their mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing, avoid close contact with anyone with respiratory illness, and thoroughly cooking meat and eggs ([World Health Organization, 2020b](#)).

Scarcity of masks. People in Vietnam need to get into line since early morning in front of pharmacies to buy the mask every day, and its price increased up to 6-7 times. The Government of Vietnam should pay more attention to this issue, and provide the masks as many as possible for the community.

To sum up, nurses need to continuously provide the information and advices to the people to protect health and prevent the spread of the outbreak, as well as to keep updated about the transmissibility, severity, and other features associated with the virus. The government also need to clarify the information related to the fake news and provide the resources for the prevention of coronavirus.

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