

Urgent Need to Adopt Universal Testing Policies for Testing All Members of a Population to Effectively Control Increases in the Level of COVID-19 Infection

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Quotation

“Universal testing of all individuals in a population is an additionally crucial component of the public health agenda because by identifying and quarantining infectious individuals, enables many industries and businesses to continue to operate.”

COVID-19 infections are now on the rise exponentially with the daily increases in the number of cases and death breaking records seen all over the USA see table 1 [1-3].

a) (US Population circa 1 April 2020):	328, 239,523
b) Total Cases of Covid-19 (23 Nov 2020)	12,661,057
a) Total Deaths of Covid-19 (23 Nov 2020)	263,027
b) Total Tests for Covid-19 USA (23 Nov 2020)	181,530,640
c) As of 23 November 2020 there were	3,000,000 cases
e) There were seen on 23 November 2030	170,000 cases/day
f) There were seen on 23 November 2020	1,500 death/ day

Table 1: Statistics as relates to the Coronavirus COVID-19 (1-3) are as follows circa 23 November 2020.

It has been stated by the CDC that roughly 40% of the infections of Coronavirus COVID-19 are being carried and transmitted by individuals who are asymptomatic yet highly infectious, and who are walking around in public spreading this infection to others [4,5].

Asymptomatic individuals are those persons that test positive for COVID-19 but, do not manifest any clinical symptoms. These individuals, however, are very infectious, and are indeed spreaders of this infection.

Individuals who are classified as being pre-symptomatic are persons who do not yet manifest symptoms but, will eventually develop symptoms (4, 5). These pre-symptomatic individuals are also quite infectious and are also spreaders of COVID-19 infection [4,5].

The population of the USA circa 1 April 2020 was cited as being 328, 239,523 [2]. Sadly to date we have only tested 181,530,640 persons in the USA for COVID-19 infections. The testing was limited to those individuals who had manifested symptoms for COVID-19 infection (ie fever, dry cough, fatigue and shortness of breath) [6,7].

Thus, in a country like the USA, there are still large segments of the population (ie asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic individuals) that have not yet been tested for: a) exposure to COVID-19 antigens, and b) carriage of COVID-19 viral carriage [5-7]. These untested individuals could be potential spreaders of this viral pathogen.

During the last several weeks, exciting new developments have been made public with the announcement of several vaccines and related vaccines studies which have shown great promise in the battle to immunize the world's population against this deadly virus.

In the realm of therapeutics, monoclonal antibodies have been shown to be useful in controlling the progression of COVID-19 in patients in the early stages this viral infection, and thus lower rates of mortality. These new developments have the potential potential to bring about a lowering of mortality rates in COVID-19 viral infections.

At the present time, the only effective ways that we have to control the spread of infection at this time is through the use of a vigorous enforcement of public health measures such as mask wearing, social distancing, and universal testing of all individuals in a population. Universal testing of the all individuals in a population lessens viral spread because infectious individuals are identified, and quarantined.

Universal testing of all individuals in a population is an additionally crucial component of the public health agenda because by identifying and quarantining infectious individuals, it enables many industries and businesses to continue to operate.

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