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People wear face masks amid concerns over COVID-19 in Tokyo's Yurakucho district on Wednesday. Health experts have been puzzled as to why Japan is still seeing a relatively low number of infections from the deadly virus outbreak so far. | AFP-JIJI

NATIONAL

Japan was expecting a coronavirus explosion. Where is it?

BY [GEAROID REIDY](#)

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Japan was one of the first countries outside of China hit by the coronavirus and now it's one of the least-affected among developed nations. That's puzzling health experts.

Unlike China's draconian isolation measures, the mass quarantine in much of Europe and big U.S. cities ordering people to shelter in place, Japan has imposed no lockdown. While there have been disruptions caused by school closures, life continues as normal for much of the population. Tokyo rush-hour trains are still packed and restaurants remain open.

The looming question is whether Japan has dodged a bullet or is about to be hit. The government contends it has been aggressive in identifying clusters and containing the spread, which makes its overall and per capita number for infections among the lowest among developed economies. Critics argue Japan has been lax in testing, perhaps looking to keep the infection numbers low as it's set to host the Olympics in Tokyo in July.

The nation's initial slow response to the virus, its handling of the Diamond Princess cruise ship — where about one in five people aboard became infected while it was quarantined in Yokohama — and the

decision not to initially block travel from China left the nation open to criticism it could become home to a “second Wuhan.” Steps taken to contain the virus — such as shutting schools and calling off large events — now look tame in comparison to what others have done.

But as of March 18, Japan has only had a few more than 900 confirmed cases — excluding the cruise ship. The U.S., France and Germany were all above 7,000 cases and Italy was nearing 36,000. Neighbor South Korea, which tested aggressively amid a surge of confirmed infections from late February, was at about 8,500 cases but its new infections are now tapering off.

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In Tokyo, among the world's most densely packed metropolitan areas, cases made up 0.0008 percent of the population. Hokkaido, Japan's worst-hit area, has already lifted a state of emergency as new cases have slowed.

Kenji Shibuya, a professor at King's College London and a former chief of health policy at the World Health Organization, sees two possibilities: that Japan has contained the spread by focusing on outbreak clusters, or that there are outbreaks yet to be found.

“Both are reasonable, but my guess is that Japan is about to see the explosion and will inevitably shift from containment to delay-the-peak phase very soon,” he said. “The number of tests is increasing, but not enough.”

Japan's proximity to China may have helped in raising the alarm when the disease was in a more controllable phase. In late January, shortly after Japan's first infection of a person who had not been to China, hand sanitizers started popping up in offices and stores, mask sales spiked and people began to accept some basic steps to protect public health. This may have also helped flatten the curve for infections in the country.

“Japan has been fortunate that only a small number of cases of SARS-CoV-2 were brought into the country, and they seem to have remained concentrated in finite areas, easy to control,” said Laurie

Garrett, an American global health writer, referring to the technical name of the coronavirus.

Despite the infectiousness of the virus, a March 9 report by a government-appointed panel said that about 80 percent of the cases identified in Japan didn't pass on the infection. But there's little consensus over why and skepticism over whether the same government that was issued a rare rebuke by U.S. health authorities for letting the Diamond Princess outbreak get out of hand is getting it right on coronavirus.

"Many infection clusters have been identified at a comparatively early stage," the panel said in a report this month. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe cited those findings when he said Saturday that Japan didn't yet need to declare a state of emergency.

Japan may have some built-in advantages, such as a culture where handshakes and hugs are less common than in other Group of Seven countries. It also has rates of hand-washing above those in Europe.

Cases of seasonal flu have been declining for seven straight weeks, just as the coronavirus was spreading, indicating Japanese may have taken to heart the need to adopt some basic steps to stem infectious diseases. Tokyo Metropolitan Infectious Disease Surveillance Center data shows that influenza cases this year are well below normal levels, with nationwide cases hitting a low according to data going back to 2004.

Japan has ramped up its capacity but has tested only around 5 percent the number of people as in neighboring South Korea, despite a larger population. But the situation in Italy, which tested extensively only to see hospitals overwhelmed, has also given some pause.

“Italy’s mortality rate is almost triple Japan’s,” said Yoko Tsukamoto, a professor of infection control at the Health Sciences University of Hokkaido. “Part of the reason is if you get tested, you get quarantined, so it means that they don’t have enough beds for relatively nonsevere patients.”

Japan has tested more than 15,000 people as of Wednesday, and despite discouraging checks on those who don’t have symptoms or contact with a carrier, the infection rate lies at 5.6 percent. That compares to around 3 percent in South Korea, but 18 percent in Italy. But Japan still faces an uphill battle to contain the infection.

“It is really difficult to identify every case, because so many infections are mild. Containment has been working in Hong Kong and Singapore by aggressive case-finding,” said Ben Cowling, an epidemiology professor at the University of Hong Kong. “I would expect a gradual increase in cases in Japan because of silent transmission in the community.”

Japanese officials say they’re confident in their testing regimen. “We don’t see a need to use all of our testing capacity, just because we have it,” health ministry official Yasuyuki Sahara said at a briefing Tuesday. “Neither do we think it’s necessary to test people just because they’re worried.”

Should Japan see a jump, it may be better suited than many peers to handle the surge. It has about 13 hospital beds per 1,000 people, the highest among G7 nations and more than triple the rate for Italy, the U.S., U.K. and Canada, according to World Bank data.

Even if Japan may not be counting all those infected, hospitals aren’t being stretched thin and there has been no spike in pneumonia cases, health officials said. While the prime minister has stepped up border

controls, a government expert panel said Thursday it may be possible to reopen schools in areas without new confirmed cases when the academic year begins in April.

“We will do all that is possible to end the coronavirus outbreak,” Abe said.

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Reed Hulburt • 18 days ago

I agree that they aren't testing enough people. I called in to the hotline because I was having a fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. They said that since I'm young and have no (known) health issues, I need to stay home. I bet there's going to be a boom of infections in the next month.

22 | • Share



Dee Reed Hulburt • 18 days ago

Same experience.

Even here in a confirmed outbreak area, very few are being tested.

I am in the young group too (29). but I had severe symptoms and was still refused testing, even after two visits to the ER.

This is crazy.

17 ^ | v • Share ›



persason → Dee • 17 days ago

Why should they test you? What good would it do? You could look at your test and say "hey I have corona" or "hey I don't have corona". Either way you would have to go home and ride it out. Even in the EU we don't test everyone just because they have symptoms. the ER did the correct thing. You did the incorrect thing by going to the ER (unless you were so terribly ill that you were on the verge of death, in that case they should test you and hospitalise you, but I presume you are young and healthy) because if you had the virus all you did was make people sick on your way to the ER.

8 ^ | v 15 • Share ›



Dee → persason • 17 days ago

I see my comment maybe got deleted as I linked you to the resources showing (as Steve cited below) that young people are also heavily affected by this virus. Of course, you could easily do the search yourself online. It's also listed in the CDC.

As for my case. I don't intend to write out all I did before, but I will say this:

1. I was deathly sick. There was a one week period during over one month of being sick that my fever spiked and remained for days and I was drowning in the fluid in my lung. Knowing no doctors would help me and feeling my body giving up on me, I had to accept that I would either have to get through it on my own or I would die. I wrote a will out just in case and told my closest friend here where it was in case I didn't wake up from my sleep. You seem rather compassionless, so maybe you don't understand what that's like. But I'll never forget it.
2. On the way to the ER and the hospital, I always practiced social distancing. I live relatively close to all three hospitals I visited....so I walked there to avoid people, both to avoid getting others sick or getting sicker. In the hospital, I wore my mask and gloves at all times. I also stayed away from people as much as possible. I did not sit in the waiting room. I did my part because I take this seriously and do not want to be responsible for other people getting ill. Don't assume.
3. What do the tests exist for if not to be used? I live in an outbreak area, one of the areas of the cluster outbreaks. I

[see more](#)

12 ^ | v 1 • Share ›



persason → Dee • 16 days ago • edited

Aight. Glad you are alright. That sounds terrible and the hospital should have taken you with what you describe, I may have been too quick to judge you there mate, sorry.

I practice medicin back in Denmark and not in Japan so naturally I am unaware of their guidelines in Japan. All I can comment on is the testing issue everyone seems to bring up.

I would like to point out that even in Denmark and lots of Europe testing has stopped. In Denmark we only test healthcare professionals who have symptoms and a critical function in the system. There is a reason why countries have stopped testing. That being availability of tests and the use of them having little to no value.

We dont have a beginning epidemic anymore now it is a pandemic that means it is out there and the situation has shifted from isolating the disease in clusters to delaying the spread so the hospitals can follow. We expect many to get infected hence testing is of little to no value. Currently if you have symptoms and are sick you need to self isolate unless cases get as severe as yours. No system has recourses to track down everyone a corona positive patient has been in contact with. Also no system has the resources to hospitalise everyone nor is it needed. In most cases Corona also presents itself as a mild fever.

WHO was correct when they asked to test everyone and then track down all contacts before the thing was all over the place, when there was a chance fo containment. There just really isn't anymore at least not in Europe and most

[see more](#)

2 ^ | v • Share ›



qupequ → persason • 12 days ago

Having a fever for more than a week is pretty dangerous.

When we were in college, we have a mandatory army training.

Absence from the training means punishment and sever consequences.

One of the guys had fever and despite the advice from his friends, he still joined the weekly march under the sun.

On the second week, he was admitted in the hospital since he cannot move anymore.

After he recovered, he became mentally-ill.

The doctor who checked on him suspected his brain cells were fried when he was having fever for more than two weeks.

We hope you are still eating your meals and drinking lots of water.

1 ^ | v · Share ›



bompins → Dee · 8 days ago

Maybe people shouldn't go to the hospital and say "I think I have coronavirus, so please test me", rather they should just say "I have pneumonia, so please admit me."

1 ^ | v · Share ›



Dee → bompins · 7 days ago

That's a great idea.

At this point, if you need help and they're not helping, maybe you should do it...

When I went in, I didn't say I thought I had coronavirus...I just said how sick I was and asked if they could do tests that the American doctors I'd been speaking to recommended - tests that would rule out other problems in line with the symptoms I had (which are also in line with COVID-19).

I was not only rejected for testing for COVID-19, of course, but also for the tests the American doctors (all three of them!) recommended. I have no idea what Japanese doctors are doing right now.

^ | v · Share ›



kujirakira → Dee · 13 days ago

The same CDC that's run by Stock Market gamblers and suppressed US testing?

Their word is less valid than rumors at the pachinko parlor.

Why are people on JT using corrupt US political sources ?

^ | v · Share ›



HARPOON F. FLYBY → Dee · 16 days ago

WHO data shows young people are at far less risk (age 0-49) on par with seasonal flu. There's also cognitive bias, when you get sick during a global panic, it feels like you are dying and in fact contributes to slow healing. 80% of confirmed cases show mild illness <https://www.washingtonpost...>

^ | v · Share ›



Dee → HARPOON F. FLYBY • 15 days ago

What WHO data are you looking at, though? Keep in mind, information about this virus is constantly being updated. Findings from the US show that this virus is pretty deadly even for young people. It's why I feel other young people who think is all a game are exceedingly foolish. Sure, they might be fine. Sure, they're probably more likely to "be fine" compared to seniors.

Does it mean they 100% will be okay?

Absolutely not.

And yeah, yeah, yeah, cognitive bias and all that. Tell that to the mucus that was actually blocking off my airways but NOT coming out.

^ | v • Share ›



Steve Jackman → persason • 16 days ago • edited

persason, I think the Director-General of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, may know a little more than you about the best way to fight the coronavirus pandemic. According to him:

“We have a simple message for all countries: **Test, test, test. Test every suspected case.** If they test positive, isolate them and find out who they have been in contact with two days before they developed symptoms and test those people, too”.

(Source: CNBC News, "World Health Organization says some nations aren't running enough coronavirus tests: 'Test every suspected case'", March 16, 2020).

4 ^ | v • Share ›



Yama → persason • 11 days ago

so what you want ? keep calm and wait? until your lung got heavy damaged ? We can reduce the damage effected by the virus if we find out sooner.

Japan refused testing because their own pride and to make a fake screen for olympic.

2 ^ | v • Share ›



bompins → Yama • 8 days ago



Exactly.

^ | v • Share ›



Dee → persason • 17 days ago

Take the last part of your statement, that I was "so terribly ill that I was on the verge of death", and you're right.

I was THAT sick, even being a "young person". There was a one week period where my fever spiked and lasted for the week, I was in severe pain, and I was drowning on the fluid in my lungs - I LITERALLY could not breathe. Knowing that I was not going to get help after being turned away and refused testing (in addition to testing for OTHER illnesses, which two American doctors had insisted I ask the Japanese doctors for), I knew I had to just get through it somehow on my own.

I have never before in my life laid there in my bed trying to accept the possibility that I might not wake up from my sleep, IF I could even fall asleep. I had to come to terms with the reality that I might pass away in the night. So I wrote out a quick will on my email, told my best friend where it was located just in case, and tried to accept the reality.

What do the tests exist for if not to locate suspected cases? The problem is not that I - or others - have been asking to be tested. The problem is that Japan refuses to do tests at all unless the people asking for them are repatriated from China or in touch with known infected cases. Two of my Japanese friends tried contacting the hotlines on my behalf, and both of them were refused as well, for the same reasons I was.

In my case, I did the right thing by self-quarantining for two months, just in case I was sick with it. However, what I did is not possible for most people, who are still expected to go into work and go about their lives here in Japan. In fact,

[see more](#)

2 ^ | v • Share ›



Avatar

This comment was deleted.



Dee → Guest • 10 days ago

God, I'm so sorry for you, too. This actually explains why many students I worked with (English teaching, naturally) would come in after being sick with contagious illness, take off their masks, and cough everywhere...Probably they were also told similar things. I remember getting bad bronchitis twice because of such a situation

were also told similar things. I remember getting bad diagnoses twice because of such a situation.

I'm so sorry for you! Well, I know that numerous other friends have had bad experiences with Japanese doctors, including Japanese friends. One of them had to visit three different doctors before he finally got diagnosed with a rough form of asthma. Everyone else told him it was just seasonal allergies and refused to test further....ugh.

I think there is a bizarre superiority complex with a lot of doctors here. If you dare challenge them or ask questions or request further testing (especially if treatments are not helping), they feel as though you are questioning their skill....Doesn't do to have such people as doctors, that's for sure...

I hope you're doing okay! Stay safe!

[see more](#)

^ | v • [Share](#) ›



Avatar

This comment was deleted.



Dee → Guest • 10 days ago

Well, it's really your doctor's fault. It's like the doctor here who told the teacher with COVID-19 that she "just had a cold" and could go to work. She did so for one week, getting who knows how many sick around, since they don't test us at all, even here in cluster infection sites!

Maybe after all of this, people will be more aware of taking care of their health and protecting the health of the people around them. So for your case, for example, you had that horrible experience, so you know that if you are feeling very ill, even if the doctor says it's fine, it's good to take another few days of rest, perhaps. I hope that this virus will help others think the same way, considering how contagious it is...

Not that I'm seeing any such change in Japan just now, but.... :/

1 ^ | v • Share ›



Naetmul → persason • 17 days ago • edited

What you are saying is like:

"Healthy young people do not need hospitals and pharmacies. They are for severe or old people."

"Distorting statistics is a correct thing because the result could be worse if sick people went to hospitals."

"Healthy people do not live with sick or old people."

Ah, in your country, young people live with young people. I see.

4 ^ | v 3 • Share ›



He → persason • 16 days ago

And, the accuracy of the test hasn't been thoroughly tested as far as doctors (not related to the CDC and WHO) say.

The European Mortality Monitor shows no uptick in unexpected overall mortality yet. Their statistics are being updated on a weekly basis.

One Spanish hospital doc says the situation in the hospital he works in is so dire because everybody comes in to be tested even if they only have a sniffle. He says, hysteria and panic seem to kill most of the people in the place he works at. Due to being overrun with people fearing to have corona symptoms, the overwhelmed staff then behaves irrational, causing more chaos and problems as they for instance are leaving potentially contaminated protective clothing in areas where staff washes up.

I'd recommend to check into the use of vitamin C, D, A as well as herbs that have been proven to be safe (and cheap) antivirals instead of following the almost directed hysteria governments and media seem to want to elicit.

Everybody should know the basics of how to maintain and safeguard their immune system, if not, now is a good time to learn: E.g., best diet possible, avoidance of toxins, supplementation with nutrients if needed (for prevention it is needed and it calms the mind), exercise, stress management. It helps me a lot NOT to listen to the media which seem to profit from desperate people tuning in every waking second just to hear more bad news and not news that shows that also this virus has been proven to be 'fight-able'. These good news about successful trials with e.g., vit C,

see more

1 ^ | v 3 · Share ›



Jagariko → Reed Hulburt · 18 days ago

People are bound to head out to see the blossom next week. I know that picnics are banned in a lot of places, but the nice weather and cherry trees will see big groups of people packed walking and standing together. Maybe not as many as usual, but still.

The young have started acting as usual, which is to be expected as they don't fear mortality like the older people. Konan was almost deserted last weekend (older person's shop) then after, I cut through a department store that was full of young women shopping without a care in the world. I counted almost 50 children in my small, local park on the first warm day this week. Young, asymptomatics spreading the disease? I guess we will find out in 2-3 weeks.

11 ^ | v · Share ›



Nicolas Musset → Jagariko · 17 days ago

This is scaring the hell out of me. I will stay home during the whole cherry blossom season. I don't care if my friend think I'm an introvert because of that.

7 ^ | v · Share ›



James → Jagariko · 17 days ago

I would make a prediction that we see a spike in the next 10 days. If not, its a possibility it may not come, but I am very pessimistic.

7 ^ | v · Share ›



batbrewer → Jagariko · 17 days ago

The probability of infection in an outdoor setting like a park is no doubt fairly low (unless someone sneezes on you, or takes a swig from your can of Strong Zero).

The problem is that everyone will go there and back on the train.

4 ^ | v · Share ›



Jagariko → batbrewer · 17 days ago

"The probability of infection in an outdoor setting like a park is no doubt fairly low"- It was a very small park and half

of the children were climbing on climbing frames. If one of them was a carrier and the others touched the frame, rubbed their faces and then a few days later visited Granny,,,

4 ^ | v · Share ›



Lihua → batbrewer · 17 days ago

Everyone will go there and touch around

1 ^ | v · Share ›



John Jamboogee → Jagariko · 11 days ago

Yeah this is really scary!! I also saw some group of young groups here in Shibuya having fun and so carefree. They don't even wear any masks!!

I believe they're the ones who spreading the virus in Tokyo. Since, they assume young people won't be affected by the virus. Yeah they might not have the symptoms but they can still pass the virus if they have it.

And even some Japanese says WHY PEOPLE ARE SO SCARED OR SENSITIVE ABOUT COVID-19 IT'S JUST A FLU!!

OMG! I'm really scared right now.. these people has no compassion with other people who might get affected by the virus so quickly. So sad Japan so sad...

^ | v · Share ›



Johnny Lynn → Jagariko · 15 days ago

I was wondering this morning how many older sufferers may be dying at home and no one knows. It happens enough without a pandemic here; people lying in their apartments for months before they're found.

^ | v · Share ›



we.need.to.find.it → Jagariko · 15 days ago

I believe you were among those who did not believe Japan should have put travel restrictions to and from China and South Korea to at least try to minimize the impact of the continuous spread at the time the world was just...watching what was happening in those countries.

Now the whole world is in lockdown afterall.

^ | v 1 · Share ›



Jagariko → we.need.to.find.it • 15 days ago

No. Wrong straw man.

And what a strange way to try and score points.

^ | v 1 • Share ›



we.need.to.find.it → Jagariko • 15 days ago

1. "Scoring points" is not of my concerns.

2. Yes. You were 'scoring' points by 'down voting' and down playing the concerns I was expressing, at a time when Japan was being fully exposed to a constant flow of 'travelers' from China, unchecked and unscreened, symptomatic or asymptomatic, 'touring' Japan and...its parks. And this continued until China put travel restrictions on...Japan.

The children of Japan had the rights to get to their own parks without fear of becoming carriers, either getting sick or endangering others.

^ | v • Share ›



Jagariko → we.need.to.find.it • 15 days ago • edited

1. Figuratively, speaking.

2. No. Wrong straw man! I am a vested interest. My partner works in a hotel. I was worried about Chinese tourists from January. We both probably caught the virus in early February from Chinese tourists at the hotel. Of course, there was no test done as it was "a cold" apparently, despite our symptoms being a recurring cough and fever. I self-isolated for 10 days. I supported restricting flights from Korea. As I said, wrong straw man. I disliked some of the xenophobic comments I read on here, however.

The children of Japan had the rights to get to their own parks without fear of becoming carriers, either getting sick or endangering others.

This is naive. The way of life today and the fact that the disease has asymptomatic carriers and a contagion period of up to 14 days means that even if all borders were closed in February, the virus would have had free-reign for over two weeks. "Patient zero" in Europe has been identified as the German man who caught the disease and got symptoms of a cold. He stayed home for a few days, then went back to work. His Chinese colleague who infected

him developed symptoms and was diagnosed after the German had recovered having unwittingly spread it to many others. German children have the right to play in their parks, but their parents seem to be better at public distancing than the Japanese.

[see more](#)

^ | v · Share ›



[we.need.to.find.it](#) → Jagariko · 15 days ago · edited

The more kept coming unchecked and unscreened, which was the concern I was pointing out, the more both you and your partner and everyone else who worked at your partner's hotel and all other guests and everyone else in the environment were put in danger... Straw Man.

^ | v · Share ›



[Jagariko](#) → [we.need.to.find.it](#) · 15 days ago

You make lots of assumptions:

- 1) I do not have a wife.
- 2) I did not support tourists coming during the outbreak. Stop pretending I did!

"Straw Man". Um, not really. In fact, not at all.

^ | v · Share ›



[Mirko](#) → Reed Hulburt · 17 days ago

Olympic cover up

5 ^ | v · Share ›



[Camper Star](#) → Mirko · 16 days ago

I don't think it is possible to have the Olympics at this time.

1 ^ | v · Share ›



[HARPOON F. FLYBY](#) → Camper Star · 16 days ago

Olympians rarely get sick, just televise everything so people can stay at home and cheer from home

^ | v 1 • Share ›



Steve Jackman → Reed Hulburt • 18 days ago

Based on coronavirus studies, fully 20 percent of all coronavirus patients who require hospitalization are between the ages of 20-44 years old. So, it is a myth that only the elderly get seriously sick from coronavirus. Please be persistent and get tested. Japan scares me.

10 ^ | v 2 • Share ›



persason → Steve Jackman • 17 days ago

Could you link that study? I would be interested in seeing this. It is the first time I have heard it and I must say I am sceptical. It is unlikely that 20% of the hospitalised with Covid would be that young.

1 ^ | v • Share ›



Steve Jackman → persason • 16 days ago

persason, this CDC study has been widely reported by major media outlets and you can easily find it by doing a Google search.

For example, The New York Times reported it in the piece, "Younger Adults Make Up Big Portion of Coronavirus Hospitalizations in U.S.", by Pam Belluck, March 18, 2020. According to this, "In the C.D.C. report, 20 percent of the hospitalized patients and 12 percent of the intensive care patients were between the ages of 20 and 44".

It goes on to say, "New C.D.C. data shows that nearly 40 percent of patients sick enough to be hospitalized were age 20 to 54".

Make Google your friend and a whole new world will open up to you!

3 ^ | v • Share ›



persason → Steve Jackman • 16 days ago • edited

Oki doki thanks. I am going to copy paste what I wrote above to another guy :)

Now to the whole ICU unit having many young people. People misunderstand the point of ICUs. An 'Intensive Care Unit' is for the sick person who is so sick that he/she can not live without ICU support but also not sick enough that the person would most likely die or never get out of ICU. Our ICUs are so effective today that we can almost keep

anything 'alive' on machines. The ethical discussion among ICU doctors is often when NOT to keep someone on support.

My point is that many very old 80-90 year olds never get to ICU because we don't expect them to ever get out of ICU once they get there. Naturally, this means that the statistics show more young people on ICU compared to old, but look at the absolute numbers of people in ICU and compare it to the total number of people who get the disease (which we don't have but that number is huge) and you realise the ratio is very big!

Here is data from the exact same CDC report:

"This first preliminary description of outcomes among patients with COVID-19 in the United States indicates that fatality was highest in persons aged ≥ 85 , ranging from 10% to 27%, followed by 3% to 11% among persons aged 65–84 years, 1% to 3% among persons aged 55–64 years, <1% among persons aged 20–54 years, and no fatalities among persons aged ≤ 19 years."

[see more](#)

1 ^ | v • Share ›



Samuel → Steve Jackman • 16 days ago

I found the study it's here:

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/vo...>

However, as usual, the media fail to mention the following facts about the testing conducted, which obviously skew the results.

1. Data on age and outcomes, including hospitalization, ICU admission, and death, were missing for **9%–53%** of cases
2. The initial approach to testing was to identify patients among those with travel histories or **persons with more severe disease**
3. Data on other risk factors, including serious underlying health conditions that could increase risk for complications and severe illness, were unavailable at the time of this analysis.

1 ^ | v • Share ›



HARPOON F. FLYBY → Steve Jackman • 16 days ago

'Require hospitalization' is a very high bar, "sick enough to be hospitalized" doesn't say required and could mean "just went to the hospital because they were extremely worried about it"

^ | v 2 • Share ›



Eboc → persason • 17 days ago

It's honestly difficult to find a news site that's trustworthy these days but these numbers are kind of correct.

<https://nypost.com/2020/03/...>

<https://www.theverge.com/20...>

<https://edition.cnn.com/202...>

But i feel like this is more because of the idiotic younglins that are going out of their way to catch it with their idiotic behavior. That "little" spring break get together before they cancelled it and closed the beaches? We had something similar in the netherlands Just as the first case arrived in the netherlands, an infected man returning from Lombardy decided he wanted to celebrate Carnaval (Something the east dutch celebrate religiously) and not go into self-isolation. Well, you can imagine the rest.

The carefree attitude of young people have them thinking they're immune to it, and perhaps they don't catch it as easily and get sick as easily, but for every isolated person you probably have about 10 thousand dumbass young people carelessly welcoming the infection until it does hit someone and it hits them hard.

see more

1 ^ | v • Share ›



Dee → persason • 17 days ago

1. (As posted above to your comment insisting young people need not worry, including me):

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkw...>

2. The study Steve is referring to, linked to in this article:

<https://www.washingtonpost...>

Just in case, CDC data on it: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/vo...>

^ | v · Share ›



Tony Cobrador → Steve Jackman · 17 days ago

Yankee panic does not scare you, Japan does. Tests do not influence your state of being or not being infected.

^ | v · Share ›



Kessek → Reed Hulburt · 17 days ago

Stay home. Youd put more people at risk if you left your house.

3 ^ | v · Share ›



Reed Hulburt → Kessek · 17 days ago

I AM staying at home. I've been inside for 8 days. Just giving info.

3 ^ | v · Share ›



HARPOON F. FLYBY → Reed Hulburt · 16 days ago

Glad you're safe buddy

^ | v · Share ›

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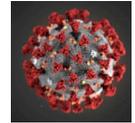
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