

Doctors warn against disinfectant as coronavirus cure

27th April, 2020



Creative Commons 2.0
via Marco Verch on flickr.com

Doctors around the world have issued strong warnings for people not to use disinfectant to treat coronavirus. Their plea follows suggestions on Thursday by US President Donald Trump that disinfectant could potentially be used to treat COVID-19. President Trump said: "I see

the disinfectant, where it knocks [the virus] out in one minute....Is there a way we can do something like that by injection inside or almost a cleaning?...It gets in the lungs and it does a tremendous number on the lungs." On Friday, Mr Trump said his comments had been made "sarcastically". The White House press secretary said the media took the comments out of context and ran "with negative headlines".

Disinfectants are hazardous and toxic substances. They can be poisonous if ingested and have fatal consequences. Reckitt Benckiser, maker of the best-selling disinfectant Lysol, warned that its product should "under no circumstance" be injected or ingested. The president of the American Medical Association also joined in the chorus of concern regarding President Trump's comments. She said: "It is unfortunate that I have to comment on this, but people should under no circumstances ingest or inject bleach or disinfectant." She added: "Rest assured, when we eventually find a treatment for or vaccine against COVID-19, it will not be in the cleaning supplies aisle."

Sources: [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com) / [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) / [yahoo.com](https://www.yahoo.com)

Writing

Social distancing should be in effect for the rest of this year. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

doctors / warnings / disinfectant / injection / cleaning / lungs / sarcastic / headlines / hazardous / toxic / fatal / injected / chorus / circumstances / treatment / vaccine

True / False

- a) The article said doctors in the USA have issued warnings. T / F
- b) President Trump said disinfectant was an effective COVID-19 cure. T / F
- c) President Trump said he has a tremendous number of lungs. T / F
- d) The White House said the media's headlines were negative. T / F
- e) Ingesting disinfectants can be fatal. T / F
- f) A disinfectant maker warned people not to inject disinfectant. T / F
- g) The American Medical Association (AMA) president sang in a chorus. T / F
- h) The AMA president said vaccines would not be in cleaning supply aisles. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. issued | a. satisfied |
| 2. plea | b. deal with |
| 3. treat | c. swallowed |
| 4. tremendous | d. press |
| 5. media | e. anxiety |
| 6. ingested | f. sent out |
| 7. circumstance | g. passageway |
| 8. concern | h. huge |
| 9. assured | i. appeal |
| 10. aisle | j. situation |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about disinfectant?
- b) Do you think disinfectant has any health benefits?
- c) How serious do you think Donald Trump was?
- d) What have doctors been saying about Donald Trump's words?
- e) What would happen if disinfectant got inside the body?
- f) How has Donald Trump's handling of the pandemic been?
- g) Do you think the press took Mr Trump's words out of context?
- h) What advice do you have for Donald Trump?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. not to use disinfectant to treat | a. out of context |
| 2. disinfectant could potentially be | b. comment on this |
| 3. It gets in | c. headlines |
| 4. the media took the comments | d. selling disinfectant |
| 5. ran with negative | e. used to treat COVID-19 |
| 6. Disinfectants are hazardous | f. the lungs |
| 7. maker of the best- | g. of concern |
| 8. joined in the chorus | h. coronavirus |
| 9. It is unfortunate that I have to | i. supplies aisle |
| 10. it will not be in the cleaning | j. and toxic substances |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What different ways is disinfectant used?
- What do you think of disinfectant makers having to issue warnings?
- What do you think of Donald Trump's words?
- When do you think we will find a cure or vaccine?
- How will you react if we find a vaccine?
- What three adjectives best describe this story?
- What questions would you like to ask Donald Trump?

Spelling

- sesdui strong warnings
- disinfectant to tetar coronavirus
- something like that by tienicjno
- it does a emerondtus number
- The White House press reaseytrc
- egntiave headlines
- Disinfectants are doasrzuah
- toxic suseabncts
- fatal sucseqenncoe
- joined in the rohsuc of concern
- aieccnv against COVID-19
- the cleaning supplies leias

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. i	3. b	4. h	5. d
6. c	7. j	8. e	9. a	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Shopping

You think shopping is the biggest worry about COVID-19. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as worrying. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): boredom, social distancing or money.

Role B – Money

You think money is the biggest worry about COVID-19. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as worrying. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): boredom, social distancing or shopping.

Role C – Social Distancing

You think social distancing is the biggest worry about COVID-19. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as worrying. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): shopping, boredom or money.

Role D – Boredom

You think boredom is the biggest worry about COVID-19. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as worrying. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): shopping, money or social distancing.

Speaking – Concerns

Rank these with your partner. Put the best concerns regarding COVID-19 at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|---------------------|
| • Shopping | • No end in sight |
| • Money | • Health advice |
| • Lockdown | • Social distancing |
| • Boredom | • Other people |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.