

WHO says young people also at risk from COVID-19

24th March, 2020



The World Health Organization (WHO) is warning young people all over the world that they are also at risk from COVID-19. The WHO said young people are not exempt from catching the coronavirus. Many young people mistakenly believe

they will not catch the virus because of their age. They think it is a disease that only older people catch. The WHO said the truth is that young people are catching the coronavirus and becoming ill or dying from it. It added that young people are also spreading the disease to their parents, grandparents and other people. The White House also urged young adults to follow advice and to avoid gathering in large groups to help prevent the spread of the virus.

The Director-General of the WHO said: "Today, I have a message for young people: You are not invincible." He added: "This coronavirus could put you in hospital for weeks, or even kill you. Even if you don't get sick, the choices you make about where you go could be the difference between life and death for someone else." The WHO said: "A significant proportion of patients treated in hospital for COVID-19 around the world are aged under 50." New York Governor Andrew Cuomo said many young people are not following the state's social-distancing rules. He told young people that: "This is a public health issue and you cannot be endangering other peoples' health."

Sources: thehill.com / ft.com / independent.co.uk

Writing

Young people should be fined if they do not follow social distancing rules. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

WHO / young people / at risk / coronavirus / age / truth / disease / White House / message / invincible / hospital / sick / proportion / social distancing / rules / health

True / False

- a) The WHO told young people they are at risk from COVID-19. T / F
- b) The article says 90% of young people think they cannot catch the virus. T / F
- c) The WHO said only aged people can catch COVID-19. T / F
- d) The White House urged people not to gather in large groups. T / F
- e) The WHO warned young people they are not invincible. T / F
- f) The WHO said young people must think about where they go. T / F
- g) Many COVID-19 hospital patients are under 50 years old. T / F
- h) New York's governor said young people were following rules. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. warning | a. wrongly |
| 2. at risk | b. threatening |
| 3. mistakenly | c. stop |
| 4. catch | d. part |
| 5. prevent | e. contract |
| 6. invincible | f. cautioning |
| 7. sick | g. regulations |
| 8. proportion | h. in danger |
| 9. rules | i. ill |
| 10. endangering | j. indestructible |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about the WHO?
- b) What are the young people you know doing?
- c) How is social distancing going for you?
- d) Why are so many young people not social distancing?
- e) What should governments do about people who go out?
- f) What would you tell a young person who wasn't following the rules?
- g) What will you say to the young people you know?
- h) What advice do you have for people worried about COVID-19?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. they are also at | a. the virus |
| 2. mistakenly believe they will not catch | b. treated in hospital |
| 3. becoming ill | c. risk from COVID-19 |
| 4. urged young adults | d. issue |
| 5. help prevent the spread | e. and death |
| 6. You are not | f. to follow advice |
| 7. the difference between life | g. distancing rules |
| 8. A significant proportion of patients | h. or dying from it |
| 9. following the state's social- | i. of the virus |
| 10. This is a public health | j. invincible |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What more should the WHO be doing?
- Why do young people think they're invincible?
- Is your country doing enough about COVID-19?
- How has COVID-19 changed your life?
- How worried are you about catching COVID-19?
- What will the world be like in six months from now?
- What questions would you like to ask the WHO?

Spelling

- young people are not emxpet
- a daiesse that only older people catch
- becoming ill or niygd from it
- degur young adults to follow advice
- oaivd gathering in large groups
- vtrenep the spread of the virus
- You are not iivbenlcni
- the hocicse you make
- the iednreefcf between life and death
- A isitngfacin proportion of patients
- This is a public health iessu
- gednagerinn other peoples' health

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Help Strangers

You think helping strangers is the best thing young people can do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): chatting to old people, working from home or shopping for neighbours.

Role B – Chat to Old People

You think chatting to old people is the best thing young people can do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): helping strangers, working from home or shopping for neighbours.

Role C – Work from Home

You think working from home is the best thing young people can do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): chatting to old people, helping strangers or shopping for neighbours.

Role D – Shop for Neighbours

You think shopping for neighbours is the best thing young people can do. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as good. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): chatting to old people, working from home or helping strangers.

Speaking – Young People

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things young people can do at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| • Work from home | • Stay at home |
| • Collect money | • Help strangers |
| • Follow advice | • Chat to old people |
| • Study hard | • Shop for neighbours |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.