

BIG NEWS

CORONAVIRUS: SHOULD WE WORRY?

THE quick answer to that question is no. If you want to know why, carry on reading.

A new virus from China has got a lot of people worried, but medical experts want to reassure people that we're safe.

The virus is called a coronavirus. This is a group of viruses that includes the common cold. But, at the beginning of the year, a new type of the virus appeared in humans for the first time.

As *First News* went to press, the new coronavirus had killed 427 people in China. That may sound a lot, but there are more than 1,437 million people in China.

Only two deaths have been reported in other countries: one in the Philippines and one in Hong Kong. In the UK, there have only been three cases of the disease and no deaths.

Dr Michael Ryan, from the World Health Organization, said that "the world is pulling together" to tackle

the virus.

Around 98% (almost all) of the people who catch the coronavirus get better. Most

of the people who have died after catching the virus were old or already had a serious health problem.

It's easy to worry when everyone is talking about a new problem like this, but we have to keep the numbers in perspective. We are used to coping with outbreaks of the flu every winter. Flu is also caused by a virus and it is also most dangerous in elderly or ill people. Flu caused the deaths of 1,692 people in England last year. Sadly, however, 1,784 were killed on the roads.

So, rather than worrying about the coronavirus, you'd be better off taking more care when you cross the road and asking your parents to drive more slowly.



Travellers try to protect themselves with face masks. The best advice is the same as for the common cold: use tissues to catch coughs and sneezes, and put them in the bin. Wash your hands regularly



China built this new hospital in Wuhan – the city at the centre of the outbreak – in just ten days

Questions on: 'Coronavirus: should we worry?'

1) Where and when did this virus first appear?

2) “The quick answer to that question is no.”
The answer is no – what is the question?

3) What other well-known illness can be a type of coronavirus?

4) Fill in the gaps with the correct number.

_____ people have died from the virus in China.
_____ people have died from the virus in other countries.
In the UK, _____ people have had the disease and
there have been _____ deaths.

5) The writer compares the numbers killed by the coronavirus to what other facts?

6) “As *First News* went to press, the new coronavirus had killed 427 people in China.”

What option has a similar meaning to “As *First News* went to press”?

- At the time of writing ☐
- Yesterday ☐
- While *First News* was printing ☐

7) Look at the last paragraph. What advice does the writer give?

8) Imagine you had a friend who was worried about this virus. What would you say to help them? Give **two reasons** why they shouldn't worry, based on what you have learnt in the news report.