

A Coronavirus Pandemic may Test the West more than Others

News:

According to the World Health Organisation, cases of the Coronavirus may be at the point of dramatically increasing outside of China. According to an article by *STAT*:

The World Health Organization's director-general cautioned Saturday that transmission of the new coronavirus outside of China may increase and countries should prepare for that possibility.

"It's slow now, but it may accelerate," Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said during a press conference in Geneva. "So while it's still slow there is a window of opportunity that we should use to the maximum in order to have a better outcome, and further decrease the progress and stop it."

Tedros's warning came after health authorities in Singapore announced they had diagnosed the infection in a man with no travel history to China and no known link to other cases in Singapore.

"The question remains as to whether we're in a lag phase and the rate of infection [outside China] may pick up, or whether we're seeing what is the natural history of the disease. It's way too soon to tell," Ryan said.

Infectious diseases expert Michael Osterholm warned that it is unwise to conclude that just because the world hasn't yet seen outbreaks in other countries they won't happen. It takes several generations of transmission — an imported case passed on to two others, who then infect two others and so on — before an outbreak takes off, he said.

"What we're watching is the public health community trying to catch up to the speed of the virus," said Osterholm, who is the director of the University of Minnesota's Center for Infectious Diseases Research and Policy.

Comment:

We ask for Allah's mercy for the Muslim Ummah from this disease. However, while many are expecting developing countries to be the least prepared, it may actually be the developed Capitalist Western countries that suffer the most from any worldwide pandemic for the following reasons:

Firstly, Capitalism prioritises material benefit over all other concerns. Intellectually, they consider it rational only for man to act in his self-interest. Humanitarian, ethical or spiritual concerns are considered to be irrational, a consequence of sentimentality or superstition. As a consequence, the West fails to mobilise resources effectively for non-commercial concerns. Pharmaceutical companies hesitate to fund research into new diseases when they are unaware of the potential market size. And although everyone knows that quarantine is essential to prevent epidemics, the West is slow to take such measures for fears of hampering economic growth.

Secondly, Capitalism, with its secular liberal creed, undermines social relationships. The biological family is not given any special consideration over other

