

Letter to the Editor: The Pundit Speaks

By Randolph M. Howes, M.D., Ph.D.

May 3, 2020

“Coronavirus Will Change Our Lives In Many Ways”

COVID-19 will affect significant changes in our lives in many ways and forever into the future. We are only 45+ days into the shut-down in an attempt to mitigate the dangers of the viral disease. Yet, we are on the brink of financial disaster, a long-term depression and unbelievable interruptions into our previous daily routines. It is touching all aspects of our lives. Many of facets of our society will become faint reminders of our past. Even after the virus is contained, we will not return to what was considered to be “normal.” Let’s look at some of the more familiar things to change. **Travel.** Currently, tens of thousands of our jets are parked on the tarmac. It may be a long time before passengers feel safe to reassemble and file into a crowded plane. If so, they may have to don gloves and face masks. **Cruises.** When this episode has passed, more than of few of the cruise lines will likely be gone. Also, remember that so-called experts are predicting second and third waves and yearly recurrences of infective viral breakouts. Even though travel deals will likely abound, passengers will be hesitant to gather in large groups for travel or vacationing. Trains and subways will also face the same changes in the future. Travelers may have to endure temperature screenings. Quarantine has dealt a forceful blow to all travel-oriented companies. **Education.** The days of bricks and mortar may well be gone, and educations will be obtained online. Additional sanitization steps may be required to keep classrooms and dorms clean where campuses remain. It is difficult to imagine American education ever looking the same. **Housing Trends.** Close proximity and mass transportation, while once were draws to city life, appear to have hastened the spread of coronavirus in New York City. Folks will be wanting to live in less populated rural areas. This likely will drive down the price of urban real estate, with the opposite bearing out in the burbs. **Health Care.** Doctors visits are being replaced by online telemedicine and consultation with hospital specialists are being handled with teleconferencing. Computer diagnosis will be commonplace, as there will be less physical exams. **Tourism.** All aspects of tourism are currently changing. Hotels and restaurants will be closing and services will be diminished. Food suppliers to the restaurants will be reduced and customers will be only allowed to gather in small groups. Many suggest the waiters will be required to wear face masks and gloves.

In the America that I love, COVID-19 has already changed many features of our everyday lives. We will have a new way of doing things. Incredibly, the “good ole days” were a little over a month ago.

Randolph M. Howes, M.D., Ph.D.

Surgeon/Scientist/Patient Advocate

27439 Highway 441, Kentwood, LA 70444

985-229-6955 Home | 985-229-3760 – Fax | 985-514-0578 – Cell

rhowesmd@hughes.net | www.iwillfindthecure.org

