

Philatelic Responses to COVID-19

It is now becoming clear that some countries have been able to combat the novel corona virus better than others. One approach to restrict the spread of the pandemic was extreme isolation, and complete lockdown of cities. China did this to 11 million inhabitants of the city of Wuhan, where it seems the virus jumped from animals to humans. Chinese postal officials released images of two pairs of stamps. Both of them feature hospital workers and first responders combating the illness.

Another approach was taken in Korea, where authorities identified cases of infection and then tracked the contacts of infected individuals using cell phone data.

Other countries seem to have learned from the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) epidemic in 2003. Countries that were hit hard by SARS, like Viet Nam and Taiwan, seem to be faring much better in their response to COVID-19. These countries have fewer cases and lower mortality than other countries. Viet Nam's stamps feature hospital workers on one



China planned to issue two pairs of stamps on 7 April, 2020, now postponed indefinitely.

stamp and researchers on the other.



Viet Nam issued a pair of stamps 31 March 2020

In Europe, Italy and Spain have had the highest number of cases of COVID-19. It is not clear why these nations were affected so severely. Infections and deaths have been very high. Spain has issued stamps thanking the health care workers.



Switzerland has not seen as high a proportion of infection as other countries. It has issued an interesting image on semi-postal stamps. The design is also a

fascination. The stamp was issued on April 4 in sheets of 10 with a value of 1 CHF and a surcharge of 5 CHF. The sheets are sold for 50 CHF, which means that the 50 francs go to charity, Swiss Solidarity and the Red Cross. The Swiss Post Office essentially is offering 10 free stamps.



The stamp symbolizes solidarity during the coronavirus pandemic: with Switzerland at the center, with the encircled cross revealing a shining globe.

The stamp was designed at Berne-based studio Nulleins Kommunikationsdesign by Alexandra Steiner. They were printed by Joh. Enschedé, Haarlem, Netherlands in 4 colors by offset on white stamp paper with matt gum.



Iran has seen one of the highest incidences of infection, with many deaths. This stamp was one of the first to be issued, as early as March 17, showing medical workers.

The United States as of this writing has seen the highest number of cases and the greatest death toll. Infection rates are expected to climb in Africa and South America. North African countries like Morocco and Tunisia saw outbreaks first. Brazil and Ecuador have both seen accelerating cases.



For all of these the advice to prevent infection is "Stay Home."

<https://www.postoveznamky.sk/tribute-to-first-line-warriors-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-and-philately>

For those of you who need an update about viruses and how to protect yourself, is a fact sheet from Johns Hopkins University Infectious Disease Department:

* The virus is not a living organism, but consists of protein molecules and RNA covered by a protective layer of lipid (fat), which, when absorbed by the cells of the ocular, nasal or buccal mucosa, changes their genetic code and converts them into aggressor and multiplier cells.

* Since the virus is not a living organism but a protein molecule, it is not killed, but decays on its own. The disintegration time depends on the temperature, humidity and type of material where it lies.

* The virus is very fragile; the only thing that protects it is a thin outer layer of fat. That is why any soap or detergent is the best remedy, because the foam CUTS the FAT (that is why you have to rub so much: for 20 seconds or more, to make a lot of foam). By dissolving the fat layer, the protein molecule disperses and breaks down on its own.



* HEAT melts fat; this is why it is so good to use water above 77 degrees Fahrenheit for washing hands, clothes and everything. In addition, hot water makes more foam and that makes it even more useful.

* Alcohol or any mixture with alcohol over 65% DISSOLVES ANY FAT, especially the external lipid layer of the virus.

* Any mix with 1 part bleach and 5 parts water directly dissolves the protein, breaks it down from the inside.

* Oxygenated water helps long after soap, alcohol and chlorine, because peroxide dissolves the virus protein, but you have to use it pure and it hurts your skin.

* NO BACTERICIDE OR ANTIBIOTIC SERVES. The virus is not a living organism like bacteria; antibodies cannot kill what is not alive.

* NEVER shake used or unused clothing, sheets or cloth. While it is glued to a porous surface, it is very inert and disintegrates only

- between 3 hours (fabric and porous),
- 4 hours (copper and wood)
- 24 hours (cardboard),
- 42 hours (metal) and
- 72 hours (plastic).

But if you shake it or use a feather duster, the virus molecules float in the air for up to 3 hours, and can lodge in your nose.

* The virus molecules remain very stable in external cold, or artificial as air conditioners in houses and cars. They also need moisture to stay stable, and especially darkness. Therefore, dehumidified, dry, warm and bright environments will degrade it faster.

* UV LIGHT on any object that may contain it breaks down the virus protein. For example, to disinfect and reuse a mask is perfect. Be careful, it also breaks down collagen (which is protein) in the skin.

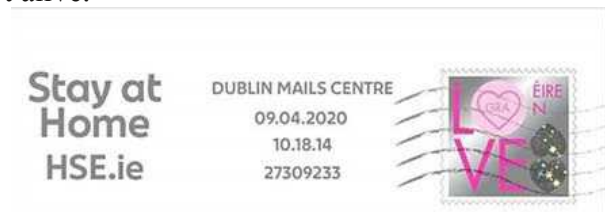
* The virus CANNOT go through healthy skin.

* Vinegar is NOT useful because it does not break down the protective layer of fat.

* NO SPIRITS, NOR VODKA, serve. The strongest vodka is 40% alcohol, and you need 65%.



Royal Mail slogan cancel



Dublin, Ireland slogan cancel

* LISTERINE IF IT SERVES! It is 65% alcohol.

* The more confined the space, the more concentration of the virus there can be. The more open or naturally ventilated, the less.

* You have to wash your hands before and after touching mucosa, food, locks, knobs, switches, remote control, cell phone, watches, computers, desks, TV, etc. And when using the bathroom.

* You have to Moisturize dry hands from so much washing them, because the molecules can hide in the micro cracks. The thicker the moisturizer, the better.

* Also keep your NAILS SHORT so that the virus does not hide there.

Chris Dahle BU 1269

Garden Stamps

Ten new stamps from the U.S. Postal Service celebrate the beauty of American gardens.

Each stamp features a photograph of a small but evocative area of one of ten gardens: The gardens include: Biltmore Estate Gardens (North Carolina); Brooklyn Botanic Garden (New York); Chicago Botanic Garden (Illinois); Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens (Maine); Dumbarton Oaks Garden (District of Columbia); The Huntington Botanical Gardens (California); Alfred B. Maclay Gardens State Park (Florida); Norfolk Botanical Garden (Virginia); Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens (Ohio); and Winterthur Garden (Delaware).

The love of gardening stretches back to the earliest years of our country, inspiring George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and other Founding Fathers to plant some of America's most iconic colonial-era gardens. From the 19th century to today, landscape designers have continued that tradition. Conceived for many reasons—for food or pleasure, as places of education and scientific study, as an expression of the owners' artistic sensibilities, as spaces for the public to commune with nature, or simply for the love of gardening—American gardens capture our imagination and satisfy a yearning for beauty and order.

Every year, millions of Americans visit gardens, public and private. Many public gardens are open year-round; in addition to the plants and trees on display, classes, exhibits, and other events encourage visitors to experiment and create their own gardens. During the spring and summer, planned tours and open garden days allow visitors to step into private enclaves and see how homeowners have enhanced and designed their spaces, be they large estates, small suburban yards, or rooftop aeries. Art director Ethel Kessler designed the stamps with photos taken by Allen Rokach between 1996 and 2014.



https://store.usps.com/store/product/buy-stamps/american-gardens-S_572704