



Letter to the Editor

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), Infectivity, and the Incubation Period

Beuy Joob¹, Viroj Wiwanitkit^{2,3}

¹Sanitation 1 Medical Academic Center, Bangkok, Thailand; ²Department of Community Medicine, Dr DY Patil University, Pune, India; ³Department of Tropical Medicine, Hainan Medical University, Haikou, China

Dear Editor,

We read with great interest the recent publication entitled “A Chinese case of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) did not show infectivity during the incubation period: based on an epidemiological survey” [1]. Bae concluded that “the epidemiological findings support the claim that the COVID-19 virus does not have infectivity during the incubation period [1].” In fact, a pathogen should not have infectivity during the incubation period or development of disease. However, the exact incubation period of COVID-19 is still unknown. In a recent report by Linton et al. [2], the incubation range was estimated as between 2 days and 14 days with 95% confidence. Exceptional cases might occur with an unusually short or long incubation period. Nevertheless, the reliability of history-taking should also be addressed. How the author was able to confirm the reliability of the patient’s self-reported history is an interesting issue for further discussion. In our country, Thailand, it is not uncommon for patients to disguise their clinical history, which can cause delays in the diagnosis of COVID-19 and exacerbate the local transmission of the disease.

Corresponding author: Beuy Joob, PhD
Sanitation 1 Medical Academic Center, Bangkok 10150, Thailand
E-mail: beuyjoob@hotmail.com

This is an Open Access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>) which permits unrestricted non-commercial use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original work is properly cited.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors have no conflicts of interest associated with the material presented in this paper.

ORCID

Beuy Joob <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5281-0369>

Viroj Wiwanitkit <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1039-3728>

REFERENCES

1. Bae JM. A Chinese case of novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) did not show infectivity during the incubation period: based on an epidemiological survey. *J Prev Med Public Health* 2020; 53(2):67-69.
2. Linton NM, Kobayashi T, Yang Y, Hayashi K, Akhmetzhanov AR, Jung SM, et al. Incubation period and other epidemiological characteristics of 2019 novel coronavirus infections with right truncation: a statistical analysis of publicly available case data. *J Clin Med* 2020;9(2):E538.