



How Many People Die Annually From Flu In Italy

11 Mar 2020 by Carrie in Health, Italy, Lifestyle



Italy is struggling to contain COVID-19, or coronavirus, as they place entire cities on lockdown.

An interesting side-effect of the spread of the virus is that it's opened up conversations about the flu – you know that virus that we all get once or twice a year, unless vaccinated.

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Italy has a pretty high mortality rate for flu, according to a study that looked into seasonal cases between 2013 and 2017.

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Before we take a closer look at that, we need to cover the basics.

This infographic is a good starting point for unpacking the differences between coronavirus, flu, and allergies:

CORONAVIRUS SYMPTOMS, OR SOMETHING ELSE?

<p>COLD OR ALLERGIES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ITCHY EYES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STUFFY NOSE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SNEEZING 	<p>FLU OR CORONAVIRUS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FEVER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FATIGUE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BODY ACHES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COUGH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORSENING SYMPTOMS
<p>CORONAVIRUS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SHORTNESS OF BREATH <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HISTORY OF TRAVEL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPOSURE 	

SYMPTOMS AND RISKS VARY FROM PERSON TO PERSON. ALWAYS CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR.
Sources: CDC, Mayo Clinic

Cool. Let's break it down more with CNN:

If you have the same allergies, at around the same time every year, then that's your first clue that this isn't the coronavirus – especially if it's centralised in the head, you have itchy eyes and an itchy nose. You should wash your hands more often because you're more likely to touch your face or scratch your eyes.

Cold and flu symptoms will resolve themselves, while coronavirus will make you feel tired, achy, and unable to get out of bed. Then there are the respiratory symptoms. If you're having trouble breathing and have been in contact with someone who has travelled or if you have travelled, you should seek medical attention.

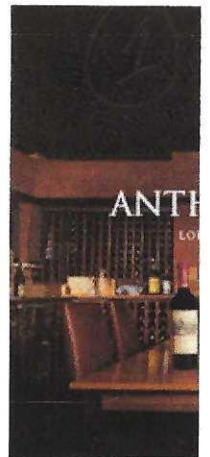
Now that you're up to date with the basic info, back to Italy.

According to the study, 68 000 deaths were attributable to flu epidemics in the winter months between 2013 and 2014, and 2016 and 2017 respectively.

This is likely due to the fact that Italy has an ageing population, and the elderly are more at risk, generally.

Over to [The International Business Times](#), for what this means for the country, when it comes to coronavirus.

The average death rate, calculated by dividing absolute number of infections by confirmed deaths, shows more people in Italy are dying of coronavirus than in the rest of the world.



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According to [the Johns Hopkins live map](#), at the time of writing, Italy has a recorded 10 149 confirmed cases of coronavirus and 631 deaths.

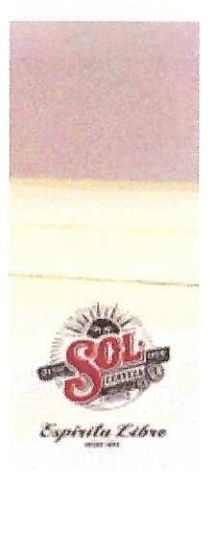
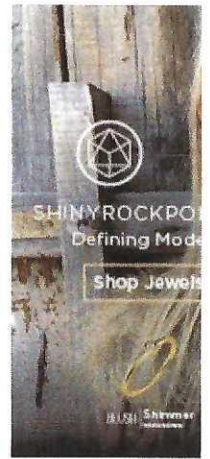
The average death rate, calculated by dividing absolute number of infections by confirmed deaths, shows more people in Italy are dying of coronavirus than in the rest of the world. According to Italian health officials, the great majority of victims are elderly people. In fact, all those who died are above the age 60. And most of them had pre-existing health conditions, the officials have said.

Those same pre-existing conditions, along with the age of victims also accounts for the high rates of death from the common flu.

In January this year, Italy reported that since flu season started in October 2019, over 2 million cases of flu were recorded, resulting in 240 deaths. Most of these fatal cases were elderly patients who suffered complications as a result of the virus.

In other words, don't panic, but take precautions if you're elderly or have respiratory problems.

[source:cnn&ibm]



240 deaths in 2 million cases? DECEPTION!
See Matt's comment LAST Page



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Thank You, Matt



matt • 5 days ago

So how do you go from 24981 deaths in the 2016/17 flu season to 240 for this year. Doesnt pass the smell test bud.

3 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



nehrwert → matt • 3 days ago • edited

240 is the number of dead people on whom's death certificate the given reason is flu. But in most cases even if people had flu other reasons are given on the death certificate.

because of that scientists look at the "excess mortality rate" of the flu season create an estimate of the real number of flu death.

To give an example: in 2017/2018 in Germany the estimated number of flu death is 25000 but the number of flu death certificates was 1670.

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Thank You, NEHRWERT BUT VERY POORLY explained!



Sam McGowan → matt • 2 days ago

That was as of January.

1 ^ | v • Reply • Share >



Zank Frappa → matt • 2 days ago

It seems that this year had a very low mortality rate for seasonal flu, it is always fluctuating and there is a degree of luck with the annual vaccine. The graphs at euromomo also show this: https://www.euromomo.eu/ This has left a lot of people with bad health conditions, that in a normal year would have been killed by seasonal flu, hanging on. These are the people now being taken by coronavirus. They were going to die anyway. It's sad people die, but it's how the world works. In fact it's not even sad because without death you could have no new life. We're destroying the world economy and accepting massive limits on our freedom because people are squeemish about death and because bad news sells. It's complete madness.

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Brit Johnson → Zank Frappa • 2 hours ago

Exactly, we need to go back to work, elderly can stay home if they wish and receive government unemployment and this should be the only government bailout! Initiate temperature checks when entering work or even anyplace if that makes people feel better. Wear masks inside