



Japan Society for Tobacco Control

日本禁煙学会

<http://www.jstc.or.jp/> E-mail desk@nosmoke55.jp
〒162-0063 東京都新宿区市谷薬王寺町 30-5-201
Tel 03-5360-8233 FAX 03-5360-6736

The Japan Society for Tobacco Control is concerned about the spread of the new coronavirus, and we report that the following factors exacerbate the risk of contracting the disease and manifesting its symptoms.

21st February 2020

Mr. Katsunobu Kato, Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare.

Dr. Manabu Sakuta, Chairperson, Japan Society for Tobacco Control

Factors exacerbating COVID-19

- 1. male**
- 2. elderly (over 60)**
- 3. smoking (current and past heavy smokers)**
- 4. asthma, COPD**
- 5. diabetes**

Factors 1 and 2 are based on existing reports from China:

Epidemiological and clinical features of the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak in China

<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.02.10.20021675v1.full.pdf>

Epidemiological and clinical characteristics of 99 cases of 2019 novel coronavirus pneumonia in Wuhan, China: a descriptive study

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30211-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)30211-7/fulltext)

For factor 3, of the reported cases of MERS [Middle East Respiratory Syndrome], 19 were from smokers; of these people 10 died, while 9 survived. There were 10 reported cases of MERS from non-smokers; of these people 0 died, or in other words, everyone survived. We believe that COVID-19 coronavirus will afflict smokers disproportionately in a similar manner.

Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus in Al-

Madinah City, Saudi Arabia: Demographic, clinical and survival data

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27302882>

Factors 4 and 5

It is commonly believed that factors 4 and 5 make people more susceptible to lung infections.