Is it safe to receive a letter or a package from China?
Yes. People receiving packages from China are not at risk of contracting the coronavirus. From previous analysis, we know coronaviruses do not survive long on objects like letters or packages.

Can home pets spread the coronavirus?
At this time, there is no evidence that companion animals/pets like dogs or cats can be infected with 2019-nCoV. However, as part of your daily hand hygiene, always wash your hands with soap and water after contact with your pets. This protects you against common bacteria such as E. coli and salmonella that can pass between pets and humans.

Do vaccines against pneumonia protect you against the coronavirus?
No. Vaccines against pneumonia like the pneumococcal vaccine and haemophilus influenza type B vaccine do not provide protection against the new coronavirus. Because the virus is new and different, it needs its own vaccine.

Should I go out and buy a box of face masks?
No. The CDC does not recommend the use of a face masks for the general public. However, if you are sick you should wear a face mask when you are in the same room with other people or when you visit a health care provider or the Emergency Department.

Does the coronavirus affect older people? Are younger people susceptible?
People of all ages can be infected by the coronavirus. Older people, especially those with pre-existing medical conditions (asthma, diabetes, heart disease) appear to be more vulnerable to becoming ill with the virus.

Take steps to protect yourself from infection:
- Wash your hands with soap and water often.
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue or your sleeve – not your hands. Throw away the tissue.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home if sick.
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces often.

Are antibiotics effective in preventing and treating the coronavirus?
No. Antibiotics do not work against viruses (colds, coronaviruses, flu sore throat), only bacterial infections (strep throat, whooping cough, urinary tract infections).

Are there any specific medicines to prevent or treat the coronavirus?
There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for 2019-nCoV infection. People infected with 2019-nCoV should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms.

Source: CDC, World Health Organization and Henry Ford Health System.