Speaker 1:

On the next episodes of Big Ideas TXST, Dr. Rodney Rohde, virologist and director of the Clinical Laboratory Science Program at Texas State discusses the novel Corona virus responsible for the world by COVID-19 pandemic. What makes this particular strain different from all the others or is it?

Dr. Rodney Rohde:

It's genetically really not a ton different, but I think what's caught people by surprise is the geo kind of political spread that's going on with it, both in reality. I say this a lot and I've said it many times this past month, that viruses are going to virus and that's what they do. They can't survive outside of a host, so most viruses need a human being, an animal, even a plant. They really exist for one purpose and that is to infect, multiply and reproduce in that host and then jump to the next host.

Dr. Rodney Rohde:

Rarely, if ever, has mankind stopped a virus or really any microbial outbreak with the exception, maybe, of smallpox with massive campaigns of vaccines. Can we slow it down with those efforts and with other prevention efforts? Absolutely. Really, it's somewhat like influenza, but there are differences, of course. Influenza and coronavirus are both RNA viruses, which means they mutate more rapidly. We're kind of keeping an eye on that, but so far, really the only thing I think that's caught us off guard is the kind of rapid spread out of the epicenter of China, in Wuhan, China. That's really what's got our attention.

Speaker 1:

To hear Dr. Rohde's full interview, listen to Big Ideas TXST episodes three and four. Subscribe to experience more innovative, thought provoking content from Texas State University.