Title: Supplement to Understanding COVID-19 Biology to Design a Vaccine Ethics of wet markets, Johnson 2020

Wet markets or farmers markets are common throughout the world. These markets provide an avenue for farmers, producers and craftspeople to directly supply consumers with products for purchase. These products may include fruits, vegetables, meats, other food items or even hand-crafted items. In some areas, these markets provide consumers with an alternative to more commercial markets while in other areas these markets may be the primary or only option for the purchase of items that consumers are not able to grow or raise themselves. The regulations on these markets vary by country and location.

Some markets around the world provide the option to purchase live animals that are killed on site for the costumer. The animals that are available will greatly depend on the region of the world as well as the availability and demand of animals. Cultural issues that dictate demand vary from the use of the animal as a food source, in some places an animal may be deemed a delicacy, or the use in traditional medicine. In many cases the available animals may be 'farmed', meaning that there is an approved industry for the rearing of these animals for sale. These farms would be similar to the cow, swine and chicken farms in the United States, but with what Americans might perceive as much more exotic animals (e.g., pangolins). While American's might perceive these animals as more exotic, there may be local demand in some markets as a staple or delicacy in the culture. While there are regulations on the farmed animals in some markets. The proximity of different species of wild-caught animals in markets has been suggested to be an avenue in which zoonotic (animal) viruses can pass between animals and potentially even to humans.

Assignment – supplemental writing

Provide your own background into wet markets and more specifically into wild trade in the wet markets. Consider in your essay the benefits to wild-trade as well as the potential problems with such practices.

Please write about 1000 words (approximately 3 double-spaced pages) providing a background into the topic, brief discussion of pros and cons, and a brief personal statement. This is essentially a mini-version of the regular paper assignments. Citations and references should be provided and formatted as discussed in class at the beginning of the semester.