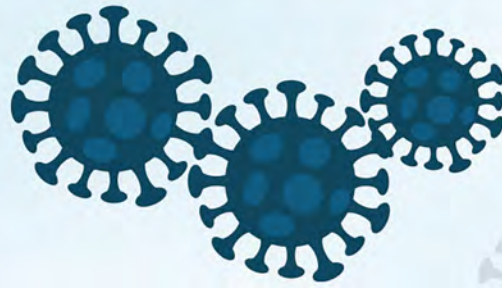


COVID - 19

Novel Coronavirus



1 CDN AIR DIV SURG COMMUNIQUE

7 Apr 2020

COVID-19 PRESENTATION – ‘SILENT HYPOXIA’

There have been isolated reports of a rare presentation of COVID-19 which is being referred to as ‘silent hypoxia’. This is where infected individuals are found to be profoundly hypoxic when assessed but have no other symptoms typical of COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath, fatigue, etc). Hypoxia in this range can cause dizziness and cognitive impairment at rest. Obviously this would be worsened at higher altitude.

While this presentation is rare and we have had no reported cases within the CF to date, aircrew should be aware of the possibility of being more susceptible to hypoxia than usual. All aircrew who experience any symptoms of hypoxia before flight should immediately seek medical assessment. If in flight, hypoxia drills should be followed with a landing as soon as practicable and subsequent medical assessment of all the crew.

Contact the Div Surg office if you need any more information.