



03 MAY, 2020

## Battle of the sexes winner is in - COVID has called it

Sun Herald, Sydney

Penguin  
Random House  
Australia

Page 1 of 1

# Battle of the sexes winner is in – COVID has called it

## COMMENT

**Kathy Lette**


We may have to take the word “men” out of Mensa, because it’s women who are outsmarting the coronavirus. In every country, men are more likely to be admitted to hospital and to die. Scientists are now exploring a potential treatment: female sex hormones.

Our species boasts more robust immune defences, better responses in vaccine and drug trials and fewer genetic abnormalities. We also live longer than men. (Although that’s so typical of blokes, isn’t it? Leaving all the cleaning up to a woman.)

In light of this, medical trials in America are prescribing oestrogen and progesterone patches to help men cure corona. If it works, even the most butch blokes will be lining up.

So we might be on the cusp of world feminisation. With the burning of rainforests by bullish Bolsonaro; Trump and Kim Jong-un waving their phallic missiles at each other; the geographical kleptomania of rootin’, tootin’, shootin’ Putin; financial meltdowns fuelled by testosterone-addled male bankers and the hot air over climate change, a more compassionate, collegiate female approach to problem solving is needed.

Even hardened misogynists can’t argue with the fact that the countries to manage this virus crisis most successfully are predominantly run by women – Germany, New Zealand, Belgium, Finland, Iceland, Denmark ...

Men absorbing female hormones would not just improve life at large but at home too. Hubbies would pitch in with housework; not only is it proven that no woman ever shot her husband while he

was ironing, the greatest aphrodisiac for any female is a man in a cooking apron.

Speaking of sex, women will no longer have to fake orgasms because men, made more considerate by hormones, will no longer fake foreplay.

We’d never again be condescended to by car mechanics, exploited by tradesmen or have to say to a boss “here are your eyeballs. I found them in my cleavage”. Nor will we be groped on public transport; more reasonable males will no longer offer us their seats on the bus but their seats on the board.

And what fun to hear beardy blokes putting the whine into “wine bar” as they drink colourful cocktails and angst over juggling kids and careers, followed by the self-critical mantra of “Am I too fat?” ... “Am I too old?” ... “If I go back to work will my child grow up to collect Nazi memorabilia?”

So, bring on those hormones. Not only to save our menfolk but also Mother Nature, who needs some tenderness. With so many couples threatened to split up after lockdown, hormones could put the “patch” into men and women finally patching up our differences.

Kathy Lette’s latest novel, *HRT – Husband Replacement Therapy*, is published by Vintage.

*We might be on the cusp of world feminisation.*