

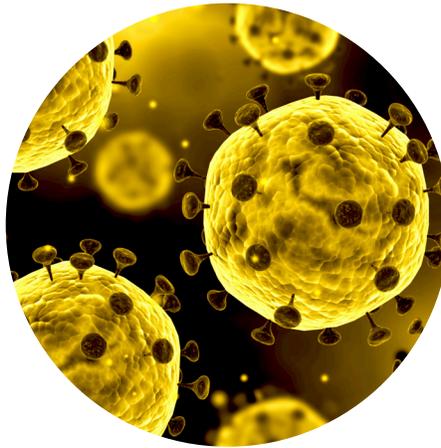
SARS-CoV-2

The cause of COVID-19

The outbreak of a novel coronavirus was reported in Wuhan, China, in late 2019. Cases spread quickly throughout the world, including to the United States. The World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus, now called severe acute respiratory coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2), a pandemic on March 11, 2020. The world would come to know this virus by the name COVID-19.

What are coronaviruses?

Coronaviruses are a family of common enveloped viruses first discovered in the 1960s. Coronaviruses are most commonly found in animals, including camels and bats; however, some strains of coronavirus are known to be capable of transmission from animals to humans. These viruses cause a variety of diseases, ranging from head or chest colds to more serious diseases like severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), responsible for a large outbreak in 2003, and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), responsible for an outbreak in 2012.¹



Why are human coronaviruses and particularly SARS-CoV-2, a concern?

SARS-CoV-2 spreads quickly from person to person and has contributed significantly to illness and death worldwide. Like other viruses, SARS-CoV-2 is constantly changing. These changes have led to the emergence of new variants. Regardless of whether a new variant causes less severe illness, changes in transmissibility and number of cases could result in increased hospitalizations, strain on healthcare resources and potentially more deaths.²

How is COVID-19 spread?

COVID-19 is spread from droplets and very small particles that contain the virus. These exit from the mouth or nose during activities like breathing, speaking, coughing or sneezing. If these droplets or particles are breathed in or land in the eyes, nose or mouth, it may result in a COVID-19 infection. The virus may also infrequently be transmitted by touching contaminated surfaces and then touching the eyes, nose or mouth. COVID-19 can be spread by anyone infected with the virus, even if they are asymptomatic (do not have symptoms).³

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

The symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion and a new loss of taste or smell. If symptoms are present, they can range from very mild, like a common cold, to severe illness. COVID-19 infection may present differently among individuals, and those with underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk for developing serious complications.⁴

Infection Control Measures

The CDC provides useful guidance and resources relating to COVID-19, including infection control measures. These should all be implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19.⁵

- ▶ **Vaccination:** Get vaccinated and stay up to date on COVID-19 vaccines.
- ▶ **Personal protective equipment:** Wear masks indoors in areas where COVID-19 transmission is high. Healthcare workers and those caring for someone with COVID-19 should wear a respirator as appropriate (regular mask otherwise), eye protection, gowns and gloves.⁶
- ▶ **Hand hygiene:** Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ▶ **Respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette:** Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- ▶ **Cleaning and disinfection:** Perform cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces and objects regularly using an EPA-registered disinfectant approved for use against SARS-CoV-2, such as products listed on [EPA List N](#).

Many Clorox products have been approved by the EPA to kill SARS-CoV-2, the cause of COVID-19, on hard, nonporous surfaces. Clorox products that are EPA-registered against SARS-CoV-2 are expected to kill all strains of SARS-CoV-2. Please visit [cloroxpro.com](https://www.cloroxpro.com) to learn more.

1. CDC. Basics of COVID-19. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/about-covid-19/basics-covid-19.html> (accessed July 7, 2022).

2. CDC. Symptoms of COVID-19. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html> (accessed July 7, 2022).

3. CDC. COVID-19 and your health. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html> (accessed July 7, 2022).

4. CDC. What you need to know about variants. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/variants/about-variants.html> (accessed July 7, 2022).

5. CDC. How to protect yourself & others. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html> (accessed July 7, 2022).

6. CDC. Healthcare workers. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html> (accessed July 7, 2022).