

## CORONAVIRUS EXPLAINED

### What is a Coronavirus?

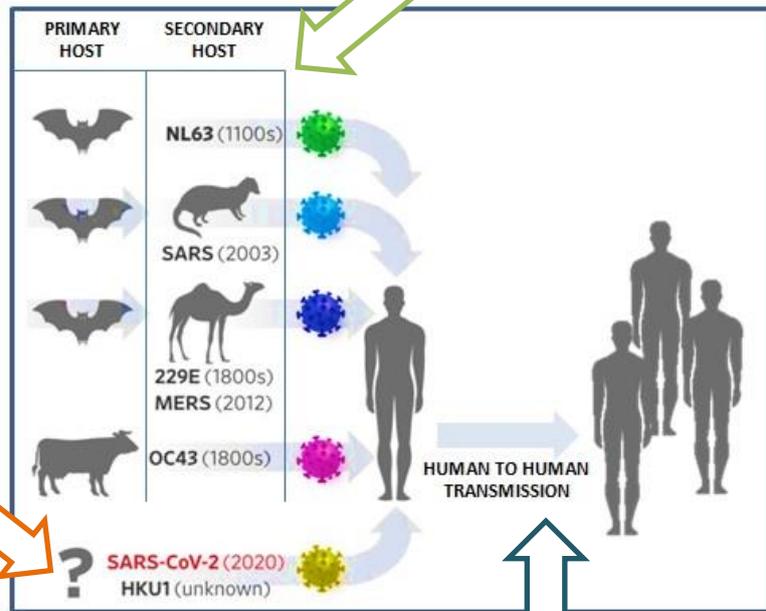
Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that range from the common cold to MERS coronavirus (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) and SARS coronavirus (Severe Acute Respiratory syndrome), the newest is SARS-CoV-2,

### Where do Coronaviruses come from?

Corona viruses are circulating in animals and some of these coronaviruses have the capability of transmitting between animals and humans. We call that a spillover event.

### What is COVID-19?

A Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. The first case discovered in Wuhan, China in December 2019 and has spread around the world in a very short time. It is a new illness caused by a previously unknown virus called **SARS-CoV-2**. This new strain can be more severe in some populations.



**CO** comes from **CORONA**

**VI** comes from **VIRUS**

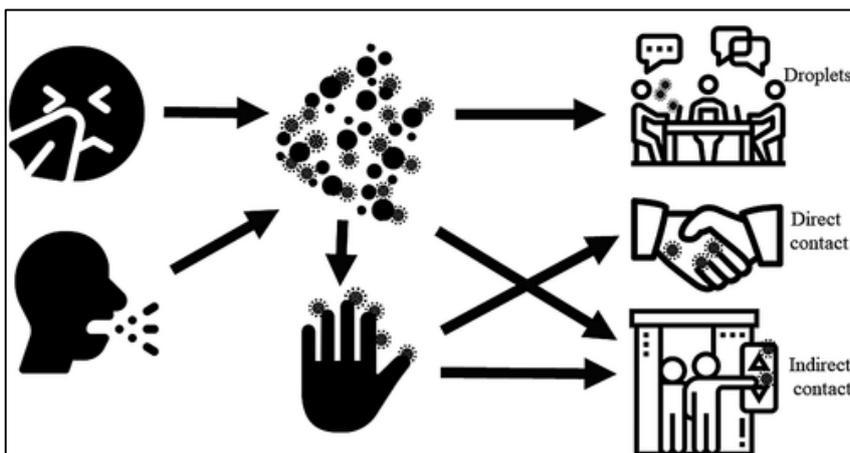
**D** comes from **DISEASE**

**19** comes from the year **2019**

### How does COVID-19 spread amongst humans?

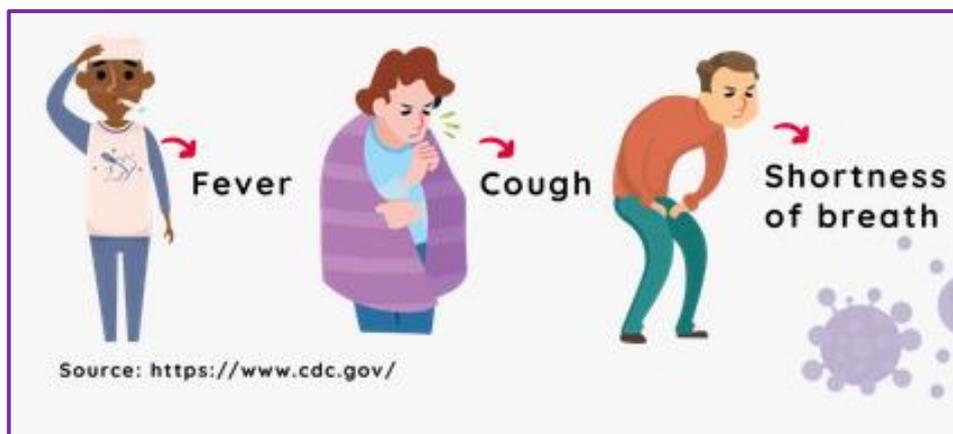
COVID-19 is spread through contact with respiratory droplets of a person currently infected with the virus. These droplets come from the nose or mouth of an infected person and may land on surfaces and objects around them. The virus is then spread when another person comes into contact with these droplets and touches their own face, nose or mouth.

The virus may also be spread when an infected person sneezes, coughs or exhales, and people around them breathe in these micro-droplets. For this reason, it's important to stay around 2 meters away from someone you know to have the virus.



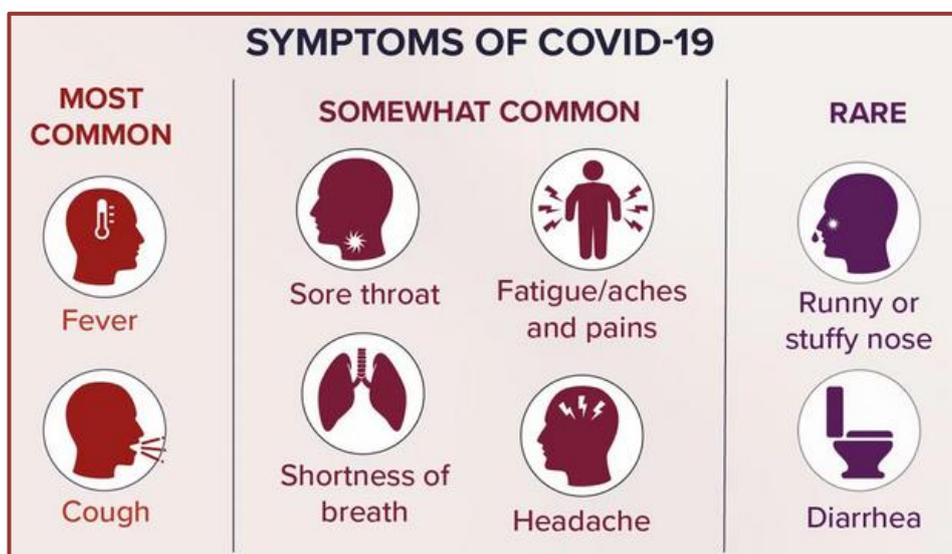
## What are the symptoms COVID-19?

The most common symptoms are a dry cough, tiredness and a temperature over 38 degrees. Other flu-like symptoms such as aches and pains, shortness of breath, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhoea are also common. Around 80% of people with COVID-19 recover from the virus without the need for special treatment, usually in around seven days.



Many may not even know that they have the virus, while others may feel like they have the common cold and treat it as they normally would at home. Around one in six people will get seriously ill from the virus and may have trouble breathing. These people will need hospitalisation.

Older people and those with underlying medical problems like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. . (See *article on symptoms of COVID-19*)



## Is there a treatment or cure for COVID-19?

At this time, **there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19.** However, there are many on-going clinical trials evaluating potential treatments. Some over the counter medications may help with the symptoms of an infected person. (See *article on prevention of COVID-19*)