

WHAT IS COVID-19?

THE BASICS

Q: What is COVID-19 and why is it called that?

A: COVID-19 is a previously unrecognized coronavirus.

In February 2020, the World Health Organization announced the official name for the disease causing the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak. The name they chose is coronavirus disease 2019, abbreviated as COVID-19.

In COVID-19, 'CO' stands for 'corona,' 'VI' for 'virus,' and 'D' for disease.

There are many types of human coronaviruses including some that cause mild upper-respiratory

tract illnesses. **COVID-19 is a new disease**, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans.

Q: What are the symptoms of COVID-19 illness?

A: Many people who have COVID-19 **show no symptoms** and may not even be aware they have the virus. People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness, and even death.

Symptoms may appear **2-14 days after exposure** to the virus. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list is not all possible symptoms. Health officials will continue to update these symptoms as more is learned about COVID-19.