

What is COVID-19?

WHAT IS COVID-19?

- Coronavirus (COVID-19) is an illness caused by a virus that can spread from person to person.
- The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world.
- COVID-19 symptoms can range from mild (or no symptoms) to severe illness.

SYMPTOMS

What are the signs and symptoms for COVID-19 and how does it spread?

- Most patients with confirmed COVID-19 infection have mild respiratory illness with fever, cough and shortness of breath. A smaller number of patients have severe symptoms requiring hospital treatment.
- The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person through coughs and sneezes. People are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest).
- Some spread might be possible before people show symptoms; there have been reports of this occurring with this new coronavirus, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.
- It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.

There is a long list of signs and symptoms that are associated with COVID-19 including:

- High-risk symptoms for COVID (those that are common and relatively specific for COVID) include:
 - **fever**
 - **cough**
 - **shortness of breath/increased work of breathing**
 - **loss of sense of taste or smell**
- Low-risk symptoms for COVID (those that more common and alone do not necessarily indicate COVID-19) include:
 - **sore throat**
 - **nasal congestion/nasal discharge**
 - **nausea/vomiting/diarrhea**
 - **myalgia (muscle aches)**
 - **headache**
 - **fatigue**