Coronavirus at a Glance: Infographic

A new coronavirus, first identified in China in December 2019, has caused an outbreak of respiratory illness that the World Health Organization named COVID-19 in February 2020.

**Infectious Diseases:** [https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/infectious-diseases](https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/infectious-diseases)

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**Coronavirus at a Glance**

### TRANSMISSION AND DIAGNOSIS

The virus that causes COVID-19:
- Usually spreads from close person-to-person contact through respiratory droplets from coughing and sneezing.
- May also spread through airborne transmission, when tiny droplets remain in the air even after the person with the virus leaves the area.
- Can only be diagnosed with a laboratory test.

### COVID-19 SYMPTOMS MAY DEVELOP WITHIN 14 DAYS OF EXPOSURE AND INCLUDE*:

- Cough
- Fever
- Shortness of breath

### THE BEST WAYS TO PROTECT YOURSELF

- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water aren’t available.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue or flexed elbow, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, sneezing or coughing.
- Stay home when you are ill.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that people frequently touch.
- Only wear a face mask if you have respiratory symptoms or are caring for someone with respiratory symptoms.

### IF YOU FEEL SICK

If you have shortness of breath or a fever or cough, or if you had recent contact with someone who had shortness of breath or a fever or cough, please tell a nurse, doctor or other health care professional as soon as possible. Contact the provider before you arrive at the provider’s office or emergency room, and tell them about your symptoms.

*In rare cases, the virus can lead to severe respiratory problems, kidney failure or death, so contact your doctor promptly if you have symptoms.