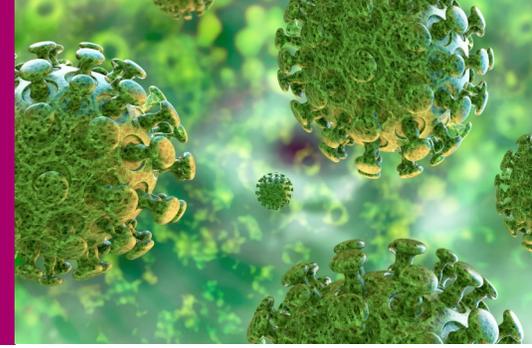# COVID-19
(Coronavirus Disease 2019)

COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person-to-person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new form of coronavirus that was first found in people in December, 2019. It has the potential to cause severe illness in some people.

How is it spread?

▶ People with COVID-19 can spread it to others when they cough or sneeze. The virus is found in droplets from the throat and nose. When someone coughs or sneezes, other people near them can breathe in those droplets.

▶ The virus can also spread when someone touches an object with the virus on it. If that person then uses their hands to touch their face, mouth, or eyes, the virus can make them sick.

What are the signs and symptoms?

▶ Fever

▶ Cough

▶ Shortness of breath

How can it be prevented?

▶ Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use hand sanitizer if you do not have soap and water.

▶ Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze, and then throw the tissue away. If you do not have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your sleeve.

▶ Do not have close contact with people who are sick and stay home if you are feeling sick.

▶ Clean and disinfect surfaces thoroughly.

What should I do if I have symptoms?

Call your doctor if:

▶ You have been to an [affected country](#)* in the past two weeks or have had close contact with someone who has a confirmed COVID-19 infection. *Visit cdc.gov to learn which countries are affected*

   AND

▶ You have symptoms of fever, cough, or shortness of breath.