COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China, and quickly spread globally, leading to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Symptoms range from mild respiratory issues to severe complications such as pneumonia. Common symptoms include fever, cough, fatigue, and loss of taste or smell. Severe cases can result in hospitalization or death, especially among the elderly and those with underlying health conditions.

Preventive measures include vaccination, wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, and frequent handwashing. Global vaccination efforts have significantly reduced severe cases and deaths.

Public health agencies continue to monitor and respond to new variants of the virus.