**1. covid\_intro**

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Most people infected with the virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. However, some will become seriously ill and require medical attention. Older people and those with underlying medical conditions like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, or cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. Anyone can get sick with COVID-19 and become seriously ill or die at any age.

**2. covid\_origin**

To date, the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that caused the COVID-19 pandemic has not been identified, despite intensive efforts to do so. This is not unusual — confirming with 100% certainty the origin of a virus is a long and complicated process. It took 14 years for scientists to find a single bat population that contained all the necessary genetic components of SARS-CoV, the virus that caused the 2003 SARS epidemic. We still do not know the origins of the 2014 Ebola outbreak.

The scientific evidence to date indicates that the virus is likely the result of viral evolution in nature, potentially jumping directly to humans or through an unidentified intermediary animal host. Historically, many viruses have emerged from animals to cause epidemics and pandemics, including influenza, Ebola, Zika, West Nile fever, SARS, and more. Importantly, after an intensive investigation, agencies in the U.S Intelligence Community agreed that the virus was not developed as a biological weapon and most agencies assessed that SARS-CoV-2 most likely was not genetically engineered.

**3. symptoms\_info**

Some of the COVID-19 symptoms are:

-Fever or chills

-Cough

-Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

-Fatigue

-Muscle or body aches

-Headache

-New loss of taste or smell

-Sore throat

-Congestion or runny nose

-Nausea or vomiting

-Diarrhea

According to the CDC, reported COVID-19 illnesses have ranged from mild (with no reported symptoms in some cases) to severe to the point of requiring hospitalization, intensive care, and/or a ventilator. In some cases, COVID-19 illnesses can lead to death.

**4. symtptoms\_have**

[generative model]

**5. emergency\_contact**

Contact SHC if you have COVID-19 symptoms or exposure. Any student who is symptomatic or who was exposed to a COVID-19 positive person should speak to the Student Health Center Advice Nurse Line at (831) 459-2591. Symptomatic employees should contact their medical provider.

**6. precautions**

The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is to be well informed about the disease and how the virus spreads. Protect yourself and others from infection by staying at least 1 metre apart from others, wearing a properly fitted mask, and washing your hands or using an alcohol-based rub frequently. Get vaccinated when it’s your turn and follow local guidance. The virus can spread from an infected person’s mouth or nose in small liquid particles when they cough, sneeze, speak, sing or breathe. These particles range from larger respiratory droplets to smaller aerosols. It is important to practice respiratory etiquette, for example by coughing into a flexed elbow, and to stay home and self-isolate until you recover if you feel unwell.

People can be infected with COVID through contact with surfaces. However, based on available epidemiological data and studies of environmental transmission factors, surface transmission is not the main route by which COVID spreads, and the risk is considered to be low. The principal mode by which people are infected with COVID is through exposure to respiratory droplets carrying infectious virus. In most situations, cleaning surfaces using soap or detergent, and not disinfecting, is enough to reduce risk.

**7. current\_numbers**

The Coronavirus has spread across the globe, with 82 million cases and 1 million deaths in the United States. It is estimated that over half a billion individuals have contracted COVID-19 worldwide, of which 6 million have died.

As of May 2022, there have been 2,073 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 at UCSC.

For daily UCSC case numbers, check out the SlugStrong COVID-19 tracking data at <https://slugstrong.ucsc.edu/reporting-covid/covid-tracking/>

**8. medication**

The best medication for minimizing the symptoms of the Coronavirus are the approved vaccines: BioNTech, Pfizer; Johnson & Johnson and Moderna, NIAID. Individuals who are experiencing symptoms should seek medical attention and advice rather than rely on treatments they may have read about on the internet.

**9. myths\_hoaxes**

There are many myths and hoaxes surrounding COVID-19. The best medication for minimizing the symptoms of the Coronavirus are the approved vaccines: BioNTech, Pfizer; Johnson & Johnson and Moderna, NIAID. To read more about the safety of these vaccines, check out: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html>

Individuals who are experiencing symptoms are encouraged to seek medical attention and advice rather than rely on treatments they may have read about on the internet.