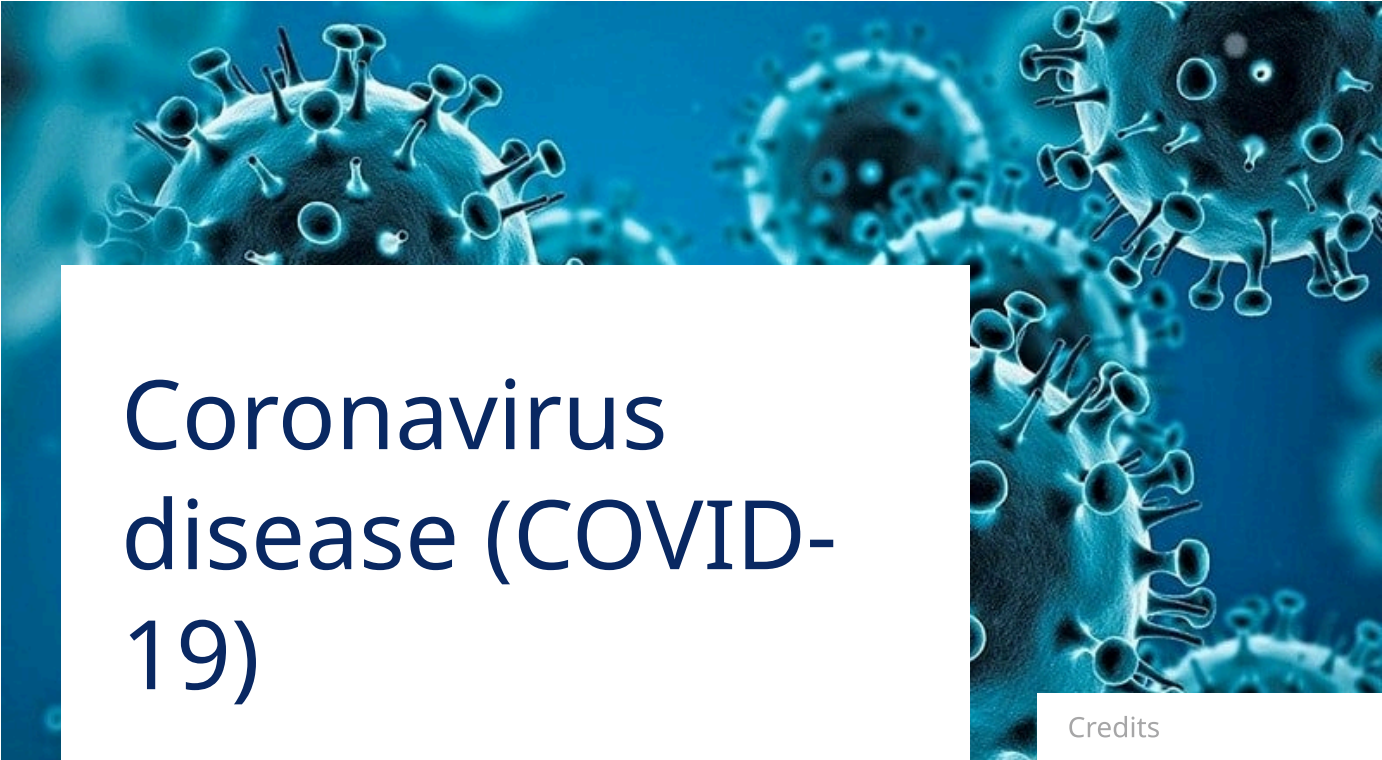


There is a current outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease

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A detailed microscopic image of several coronavirus particles. The particles are spherical with a textured surface and numerous spike-like projections (spikes) extending from them. They are set against a dark blue background with some blurred light effects.

Coronavirus disease (COVID- 19)

Credits

Overview

Prevention

Symptoms

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.

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.

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- [Myth busters](#)
- [Questions and answers](#)
- [Situation reports](#)
- [All information on the COVID-19 outbreak](#)

Fact sheets



Questions and answers



Databases and tools



Emergency situations



Initiatives and groups



Training



30 July 2025_ | Departmental update

Paying tribute to David Nabarro

27 June 2025_ | News release

WHO Scientific advisory group issues report on origins of COVID-19

17 June 2025_ | News release

The WHO Hub in Berlin: driving innovation to make

15 May 2025_ | Statement

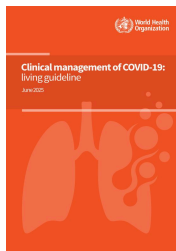
Statement on the antigen composition of COVID-19

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**Preparing and preventing
epidemics and pandemics**

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**Diagnostic testing for
SARS-CoV-2 infection**

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**Why testing is
important?**

Videos

20 October 2023

**Pandemic
preparedness:
Introducing WHO's
Investigations and
Studies (Unity Studies)
approach**

5 June 2023

**Nurses Facing COVID -
2023 Health
Emergencies "GRAND
PRIX" at the 4th Health
for All Film Festival**

14 October 2022

**WHO's Science in 5:
Older adults and
COVID-19 vaccines - 14
October 2022**

3 June 2022

**WHO's Science in 5 on
COVID-19: Genome
Sequencing**

Events

Post COVID-19 condition: Science, Research and Policy

 20 November 2024 16:00 – 17:00 CET

INB-related interactive dialogues

 3 – 4 September 2024

Related links

COVID-19 vaccines

Vaccines explained series
