# Transmission of SARS-CoV-2



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### How SARS-CoV-2 Is Transmitted

#### First way ...

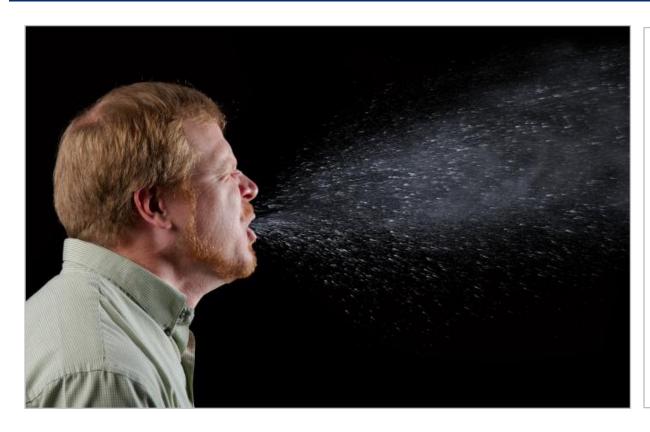
- ► Infected people have the virus in their mouths, noses, and throats
- Droplets come out when we are talking, laughing, coughing, and sneezing
- ► Those droplets can enter another person's mouth, nose, or eyes

### Second way ...

- Surfaces may have viruses from someone's respiratory droplets
- Virus can "survive" on surfaces and then contaminate the hands of others
  - ► Hands can transfer virus to your mouth, nose, or eyes
  - Hand-washing and cleaning are important!

In hospitals, patients have procedures done that may increase transmission

# Infectious Respiratory Droplets Can Travel



- ▶ Droplets can ...
  - ► Travel during sneezes, coughs, talking, and singing
  - ► Travel up to 6 feet
  - ► Land in the eyes, nose, or mouth of people
  - ► Land on surfaces
- Mask use can reduce transmission
  - Fewer droplets from infected person

Photo credit: US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) / Brian Judd. (2009).

## SARS-CoV-2 Is Transmitted Efficiently

- ► People are infectious before they have symptoms
- Some people never develop symptoms
- ▶ We must test symptomatic people and identify their contacts quickly to limit spread

## Transmission Is More Likely With Closer Contact

- Physical contact
- ► Close contact (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more)
- Shared environment (for example, offices and restaurants)
- Sharing food and bathrooms
- Sharing beds

► Transmission is more likely between people who live together (physical contact and shared spaces)

## Living Conditions That Increase Risk for Transmission

- ► Sometimes called *congregate housing*—many people living in close quarters
- **Examples:** 
  - ▶ Prisons and jails
  - ► Group homes
  - Dormitories
  - **▶** Shelters

### **Nursing Homes: Worst-Case Scenario**

- ► Nursing home residents are at high risk for severe disease:
  - ▶ Older age
  - ► Multiple underlying conditions
  - ▶ Need for multiple interventions, such as feeding and toileting
- ► Staff are therefore at increased risk of exposure and infection
- Nursing homes are not hospitals and are not set up for severe infections