

# 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

# 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