

WHAT IS COVID-19?

COVID is an acronym: “CO” stands for Corona, “VI” for Virus, and “D” for Disease. COVID-19 is named after the virus that was first identified in Wuhan China in November 2019 – hence “COVID-19.” The World Health Organization (WHO) announced the official name for this virus in February 2020.

Coronavirus is a type of virus known as a “zoonotic” virus as it originates in animals and can spread to humans. There are many types of human corona viruses that cause symptoms like a common cold or upper respiratory illness. COVID-19 is caused by a coronavirus called SARS CoV-2. It is a new type of coronavirus that has never been seen before, which is why it is referred to as the “novel or new” coronavirus.

There is still much to be known and understood about COVID-19. Researchers, Epidemiologist, and other Federal agencies are working diligently to understand this virus and ways to treat and cure those infected with it.

What we do know about COVID-19

- It is spread by droplet from a sneeze or cough from an infected person and/or by contact with objects or surfaces contaminated with the virus
- It is spreading rapidly around the world (Pandemic) and the US is now the Epicenter (Central Point) of COVID-19
- It can cause mild to severe respiratory illness that can result in death
- Common symptoms are
 - sore throat
 - fever 101 or greater
 - non-productive cough
 - diarrhea
 - headache
 - loss of taste and/or smell
- Some infected individuals are asymptomatic but are still able to spread it to others
- It has community spread
- No definitive treatment or vaccine has been realized

From what we know at this point, social distancing, home isolation, conscious hand hygiene, and the use of cloth and/or procedure masks in public is the best way to help control the spread of COVID-19.