

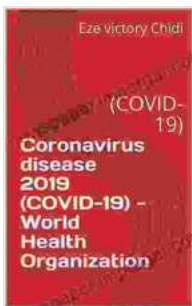
The Essential Guide to Coronavirus Disease 2024 (COVID-19) - World Health Organization

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a new coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2. It was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China.

Symptoms of COVID-19

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are:



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- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Muscle aches
- Fatigue

- Loss of taste or smell

How does COVID-19 spread?

COVID-19 is spread by respiratory droplets that are released when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or be inhaled into the lungs.

Who is at risk for severe illness from COVID-19?

People who are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 include:

- Older adults
- People with chronic medical conditions, such as heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes
- People with weakened immune systems

How to prevent COVID-19

There are several things you can do to prevent COVID-19, including:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

Treatment for COVID-19

There is no specific treatment for COVID-19, but there are treatments that can help to relieve symptoms and prevent complications. These treatments may include:

- Rest
- Pain relievers
- Fever reducers
- Cough suppressants
- Antiviral medications

When to seek medical attention

Seek medical attention immediately if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Difficulty breathing
- Persistent chest pain or pressure
- New confusion or inability to awaken
- Bluish lips or face

The global COVID-19 pandemic

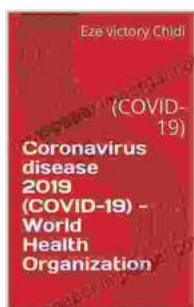
The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the world. As of March 2024, there have been over 200 million cases of COVID-19 and over 4 million deaths. The pandemic has caused widespread economic and social disruption.

The future of COVID-19

The future of COVID-19 is uncertain. It is possible that the virus will continue to circulate for years to come, or it may eventually be eradicated. The development of effective vaccines and treatments will be key to controlling the pandemic.

COVID-19 is a serious illness that can have a significant impact on your health. It is important to take steps to prevent COVID-19 and to seek medical attention if you have any symptoms.

For more information on COVID-19, please visit the website of the World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>



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