What is COVID-19?

The CDC is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus that was first detected in China, which has now been detected in a number of countries internationally, including in the United States.

How it spreads

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can land in the mouth or nose of people nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

Tips

- Avoid people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe

Symptoms

- Shortness of breath
- Fever
- Cough