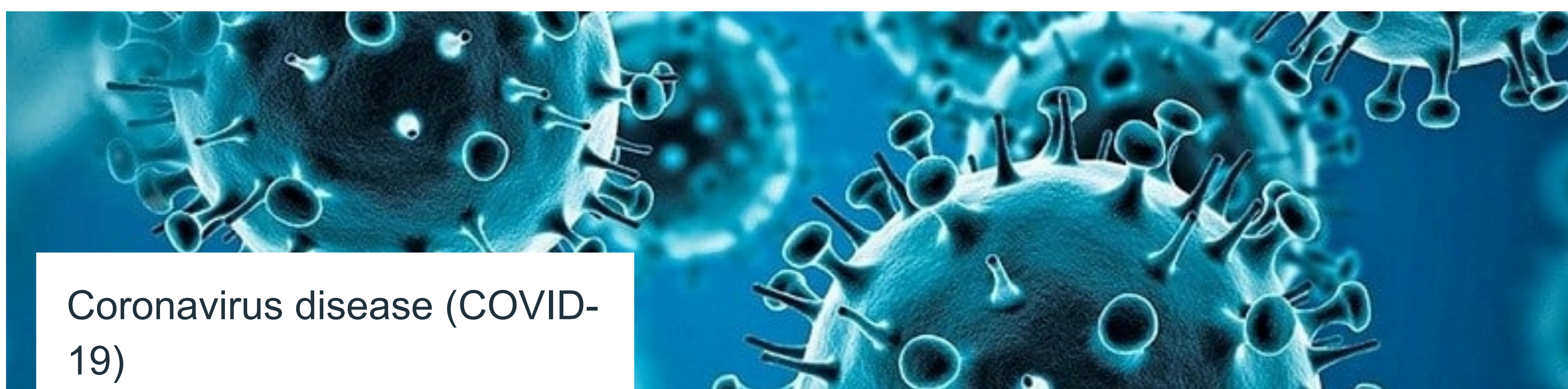


There is a current outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) disease

Find out more

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# Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

Overview Prevention Symptoms

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Most people infected with the virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. However, some will become seriously ill and require medical attention. Older people and those with underlying medical conditions like cardiovascular disease, diabetes, chronic respiratory disease, or cancer are more likely to develop serious illness. Anyone can get sick with COVID-19 and become seriously ill or die at any age.

The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is to be well informed about the disease and how the virus spreads. Protect yourself and others from infection by staying at least 1 metre apart from others, wearing a properly fitted mask, and washing your hands or using an alcohol-based rub frequently. Get vaccinated when it's your turn and follow local guidance.

The virus can spread from an infected person's mouth or nose in small liquid particles when they cough, sneeze, speak, sing or breathe. These particles range from larger respiratory droplets to smaller aerosols. It is important to practice respiratory etiquette, for example by coughing into a flexed elbow, and to stay home and self-isolate until you recover if you feel unwell.

Stay informed:

- [Advice for the public](#)
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- [Questions and answers](#)
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- [All information on the COVID-19 outbreak](#)

- Stay safe
- Situation updates
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## Publications

All publications

14 June 2021  
**Considerations for implementing and adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19**  
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19 May 2021  
**Preventing and mitigating COVID-19 at work: policy brief, 19 May 2021**  
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12 April 2021  
**Reducing public health risks associated with the sale of live wild animals of mammalian species in traditional...**  
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2 February 2021  
**COVID-19: Occupational health and safety for health workers: interim guidance, 2 February 2021**  
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## News

All

30 January 2023 | Statement  
**Statement on the fourteenth meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) Emergency Committee regarding the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic**

14 January 2023 | Statement  
**WHO welcomes data on COVID-19 in China, meeting with Minister**

13 January 2023 | News release  
**WHO updates COVID-19 guidelines on masks, treatments and patient care**

4 January 2023 | Statement  
**TAG-VE statement on the meeting of 3 January on the COVID-19 situation in China**

## Related links

- [COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- [Vaccines explained series](#)
- [Therapeutics and COVID-19](#)

## Events

**EPI-WIN webinar: Influenza vaccines: what makes them work**  
1 March 2023 13:00 – 14:00 CET

**Fourth meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) for a WHO instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response**  
27 February – 3 March 2023

**WHO EPI-WIN webinar: Changing perspectives of the mpox outbreak**  
22 February 2023 12:00 – 13:00 CET

**Briefings in preparation for the fourth meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body**  
7 – 15 February 2023

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