Coronaviruses and COVID-19

What are coronaviruses?

*A family of viruses that cause cold and respiratory illnesses (in humans)*

*There are 7 strains of coronaviruses that can infect humans*

*3 of those strains cause more serious disease (SARS, MERS, and SARS-Cov2 which causes the COVID-19 illness)*

Do coronaviruses only infect humans?

*3 strains (SARS, MERS, and SARS-Cov2) infect animals and evolve to infect humans*

Why are they called coronaviruses?

*No, they aren’t named after a beer. They are called coronaviruses because of spikes on their cell surface that resemble a crown ("corona" means crown in Latin)*

What is COVID-19?

*COVID-19 is the respiratory illness caused by the new strain of coronavirus (SARS-Cov2)*

*It appeared in Wuhan, China in late 2019 and has spread worldwide*

How is the virus spread?

*Physical contact from person-to-person*

*Through the air by droplets*

*By touching surfaces with the virus on it and then touching your face*

What you need to know about COVID-19

**Symptoms**
Most common:
- *Fever*
- *Cough*
- *Shortness of breath*

Sometimes seen:
- *Sore throat*
- *Runny nose*
- *Body aches*
- *Lethargy*

**How to prevent transmission**
- *Wash hands regularly or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer*
- *Cover coughs and sneezes*
- *Practice social distancing: no unnecessary travel and avoid large groups of people*
- *Stay home when feeling ill*
- *Don’t touch your face (eyes, nose, mouth)*
- *Avoid close contact with anyone who is ill or has symptoms*
- *Disinfect routinely touched surfaces daily*