COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019)

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a virus strain that began spreading in people in December 2019.

Health experts are concerned because little is known about this new virus, and it can cause severe illness and pneumonia in some people.

- COVID-19 is a new respiratory virus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

- COVID-19 is not the same as the coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans and cause mild illness, like the common cold.

- Formerly, this disease was referred to as "2019 novel coronavirus" or "2019-nCoV."
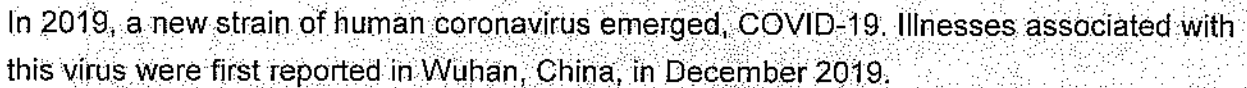
Track current Wisconsin investigation details on our Outbreaks in Wisconsin webpage.

Link to DHS Webpage: https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/disease/covid-19.htm

COVID-19 101

Causes and Transmission

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in both humans and animals. There are currently seven strains of human coronaviruses that have been identified. Four of these strains are common and found in Wisconsin and elsewhere around the world. These common human coronaviruses typically cause a mild to moderate respiratory illness. Sometimes, new coronaviruses emerge.

In 2019, a new strain of human coronavirus emerged, COVID-19. Illnesses associated with this virus were first reported in Wuhan, China, in December 2019.

The main way COVID-19 is spread to others is when an infected person coughs or sneezes. This is similar to how influenza is spread. The virus is found in droplets from the throat and nose. When someone coughs or sneezes, other people near them can breathe in those droplets. The virus can also spread when someone touches an object with the virus on it. If that person touches their mouth, face, or eyes the virus can make them sick.

There is much more to learn about the spread, severity, and other features of this virus. To monitor COVID-19 in Wisconsin, please visit: Outbreaks in Wisconsin.

Signs and Symptoms

Prevention and Treatment

Self-Quarantine and Self-Monitoring Guidance

Guidance for School Districts

Guidance for Employers

Resources

Provider Information

Reporting and Surveillance Guidance

Testing Criteria for Patients Under Investigation

Infection Prevention and Provider Resources

Preparedness Resources