## **CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019**

(COVID-19)

# WHAT IS CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019?

Coronaviruses are large groups of viruses common among animals. They can make people sick with mild to moderate upper respiratory tract illness similar to a common cold. COVID-19 is a new coronavirus identified in China. It is associated with a pneumonia outbreak.

### **SYMPTOMS**

The complete clinical picture of COVID-19 is not clear, but symptoms include mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, coughing, difficult breathing and a sore throat.



#### **MEASURES IN PLACE**

- fever screening at ports of entry
- procedures for case detection and quick diagnosis, isolation and management of cases
- health facilities ready to manage suspected or confirmed cases and appropriate referral and
- follow-ups with contacts of confirmed cases to ensure that the virus does not spread

## **PREVENTION**



WASH HANDS OFTEN.



AVOID TOUCHING WITH UNWASHED HANDS.



AVOID CLOSE CONTACT WITH INFECTED PEOPLE.



COVER YOUR COUGH OR SNEEZE WITH A TISSUE, AND ONCE USED, THROW IT AWAY.

If you are mildly sick, drink lots of fluids, stay at home and rest.

Contact the 24/7 hotline at 021 928 4102.

For more information go to www.capetown.gov.za/coronavirus

## **HOW IT SPREADS**

It spreads via the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes; close contact such as touching or shaking hands and touching objects or surfaces with the virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands.



# WHO IS AT RISK OF DEVELOPING SEVERE ILLNESS?

While we are still learning about how COVID-19 affects people, older persons and persons with pre-existing medical conditions (such as high blood pressure, heart or lung disease, cancer or diabetes) appear to develop serious illness more often than others.

## **TREATMENT**

There are currently no vaccines available against COVID-19.

Treatment is supportive, e.g. oxygen for shortness of breath or treatment for fever. Antibiotics do not treat viral infections, but it may be used if secondary bacterial infections develop.



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