



What is COVID19?

SARS-CoV-2, is a novel coronavirus. A novel coronavirus is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified. The virus was first identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in 2019. There are many coronaviruses, all of which typically cause respiratory disease in humans. The World Health Organization (WHO) named the disease caused by SARS-CoV2 **"COVID-19"**.

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

In March 2020, WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic due to the number of countries affected by its rapid spread.

Helpful Links:

[Coronavirus Disease 2019 Basics from CDC](#)

[COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions from NYS Department of Health](#)