COVID-19 is caused by an infection with a coronavirus first identified in 2019 (COV for corona, Vi for virus, and D for disease). COVID-19 spreads when an infected person breathes out droplets and very small particles that contain the virus. These droplets and particles can be breathed in by other people or land on their eyes, nose, or mouth.

Symptoms: Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. *This list does not include all possible symptoms.

Variants (for example, Delta, Omicron) of the virus are expected to occur. Slowing the spread of the virus by protecting yourself and others can slow the emergence of new variants.

Protective Measures
- Wear a face mask (cloth, surgical, or KN95) - ensure it is used correctly by covering the nose and mouth
- Sanitize your hands – wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer
- Test – if you have symptoms or if you were exposed to COVID-19
- Keep at least 6 ft distance between you and other people
- Get vaccinated / boosted

Vaccines: COVID-19 vaccines are effective at protecting people from getting seriously ill. Stay up to date with the recommended vaccines. Four (4) COVID-19 vaccines are approved in the U.S.: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Novavax, and Johnson & Johnson.

Treatments
Not in the hospital - to treat mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19
- Symptoms for 5 days or less - must be given within 5 days after the first symptoms of COVID-19 appear
  - Paxlovid™: For adults and children who are 12 years of age and older, weighing at least 88 pounds
  - Lagevrio (molnupiravir): For adults 18 years and older
- Symptoms for 7 days or less - must be given within 7 days after the first symptoms of COVID-19 appear
  - Bebtelovimab: For adults and children 12 years or older (weighing at least 88 pounds) at high risk for serious COVID-19. This treatment is for when other COVID-19 treatment options approved or authorized by the FDA are unavailable or not clinically appropriate.
  - Veklury (remdesivir): This antiviral treatment is for people who are not in the hospital and for people staying in the hospital. People who are not in the hospital must go to an IV infusion center to receive this treatment.

* There are other treatments available for people in the hospital

COVID-19 is caused by a coronavirus that first appeared in 2019. It is spread primarily through respiratory droplets and small particles that contain the virus. These particles can be inhaled by others or land on their eyes, nose, or mouth.

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Updated 08/23/2022. Information is evolving rapidly. Our understanding of COVID-19, variants, and vaccines continues to evolve. For updated information, check other trusted sources like the CDC.