

BREAKING DOWN THE CORONAVIRUS

By Theresa Stratford

The World Health Organization defines the coronavirus as a large family of viruses found in both animals and humans. The illness in humans ranges from the common cold to more severe respiratory illnesses. For some, the virus is mild, including a runny nose, sore throat, cough and fever. But it can be more severe and cause pneumonia or breathing difficulties, and, in rare cases, it can be fatal. The most vulnerable are older people and people with pre-existing conditions such as diabetes and heart disease.

The virus is spread primarily through an infected person's respiratory droplets generated when the person coughs, sneezes or through their saliva or

discharge from their nose. It is important to frequently wash your hands and sneeze or cough into a flexed elbow or with a tissue that is discarded immediately.

The highest risk for contracting the virus is for people who have recently traveled to China or who have been living or working closely with those travelers. Health workers caring for a person suffering from coronavirus are also at high risk.

It may be hard to determine the difference between the coronavirus and the flu or cold virus, but laboratory tests will confirm the diagnosis. The key is seeking medical care early if you experience cough, fever and difficulty breathing.

(Information gathered from the World Health Organization.)



As of MARCH 10

- Coronavirus cases: **119,214**
- **88%** of the cases are mild; **12%** are serious or critical.
- Deaths: **4,298**
- Recovered or discharged: **66,621**
- China has the most cases, **80,778**, and total deaths due to the virus, **3,158**.
- The United States has **1,009 CASES**, **30** deaths, **15** are recovered or discharged and **10** are serious or critical.
- **119 COUNTRIES** and **TERRITORIES** have cases of the virus.

(Worldometers.info - numbers change continuously.)

A quarantined cruise ship docked in Japan, the Diamond Princess, had a reported **696 CASES** with roughly **3,700 TOTAL** passengers and crew on board. They were quarantined for almost two weeks before beginning to evacuate on Feb. 16. **SEVEN** people died.

(CNBC)

The incubation period is **TWO TO 14 DAYS.**

(Worldometers.info)

The CDC recommends that travelers **AVOID ALL** nonessential travel to China.

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)



Early on, many of the patients in the **COVID-19** outbreak in Wuhan, China, had some link to a large seafood and live animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. Later, a growing number of patients reportedly did not have exposure to animal markets, indicating person-to-person spread. Chinese officials report that sustained person-to-person spread is occurring in China.

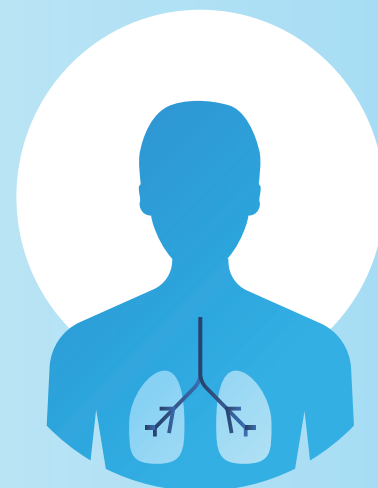
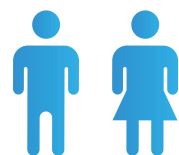
(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)



300 AMERICANS

were evacuated from the Diamond Princess cruise ship, **INCLUDING 14** with the coronavirus.

When they arrived back in the United States on Feb. 17, they were quarantined for another two weeks at Air Force bases in San Antonio and Fairfield, California. (CNBC)



Among the infected are at least **TWO NEWBORNS**, according to Chinese health officials. But few children are among those sick enough to be diagnosed with the coronavirus.

(www.livescience.com)

ON FEB. 11, the World Health Organization announced an official name for the disease that is causing the current outbreak of coronavirus disease: **COVID-19**.

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

The numbers are changing quickly as the outbreak evolves, but the median age of patients skews older, between

49 AND 56 YEARS OLD.

(www.livescience.com)