



## The coronavirus – COVID-19

### WHAT IS THE CORONAVIRUS?

- Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, causing respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as SARS. The most recently discovered coronavirus causes coronavirus disease COVID-19.
- **Symptoms and recovery rate:**
  - Common: fever, tiredness, dry cough
  - Sometimes: aches and pains, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhoea
  - 80% of people recover without any special treatment
  - 16% get seriously ill (severe pneumonia with breathing difficulties)
  - 2% infected have died
- **Risk factors:** age, high blood pressure, heart problems or diabetes

### HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

- **Person to person** transmission through droplets from nose or mouth
  - touching objects on which droplets landed and then touching eyes, nose or mouth
  - breathing in infectious droplets (e.g. after a sneeze)

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Wash hands** with soap and water regularly or clean them with alcohol-based hand rub;
- Keep a minimum of **1 metre distance** to person who is coughing or sneezing;
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth;
- Cover your mouth when sneezing, use paper tissues and dispose of them immediately after use;
- If unwell stay home and in case of **fever, cough and breathing difficulties** contact medical services;
- Follow specific recommendations for persons who are/have been to areas in the last 14 days where COVID-19 is spreading.

## INFECTIONS IN EU MEMBER STATES (27 FEBRUARY 2020)

EU Member State	Number of cases	Deaths relating to COVID-19
Italy	400	12
Germany	21	0
France	18	2
Spain	12	0
Croatia	3	
Austria, Finland, Sweden	2	0
Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Greece, Romania	1	0
<b>EU total</b>	<b>465</b>	<b>14</b>

→ Source: [https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200227-sitrep-38-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=9f98940c\\_2](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200227-sitrep-38-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=9f98940c_2)

## COVID-19 vs SARS and SEASONAL INFLUENZA:

- COVID-19 appears genetically closely related to the 2003 SARS virus, but to date less fatal
- Seasonal flu claims on average **40.000 lives** in Europe per year

## ADVICE ON MASK WEARING



Sources: [ECDC](#) (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control) and UN World Health Organization [COVID-19 files](#)