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)

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


### 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

![WHEN TO USE A MASK](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200227-sitrep-38-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=9f98940c_2)

For healthy people wear a mask only if you are taking care of a person with suspected 2019-nCoV infection

Wear a mask, if you are coughing or sneezing

Masks are effective only when used in combination with frequent hand-cleaning with alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water

If you wear a mask then you must know how to use it and dispose of it properly

Sources: [ECDC (European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control) and UN World Health Organization COVID-19 files](https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200227-sitrep-38-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=9f98940c_2)