

# How The Corona Virus Has Spread....

This year (2020), there have been many changes to our lives thanks to the Covid 19 Global Pandemic. A virus is a teensy, tiny germ, way smaller than anything you can see. Viruses can make us sick, but they can't do anything on their own — they need to live inside another creature (their host) to survive. To do that, they have to get into our cells. Experts estimate there are around 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 of them, and if they were all lined up, they would stretch from one side of the galaxy to the other.

Covid-19, commonly referred to as coronavirus, emerged from Wuhan, China, in January. Within two months, it had spread to more than 140 countries on six continents and has been classified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a global pandemic.

## What is a coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning that they are transferred from animals to humans. It is essentially an illness that affects people's breathing and lungs. Other zoonotic viruses you might have heard of include Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) - which was transmitted from cats to humans - and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), which was transmitted from camels.

Scientists are already aware of several coronaviruses circulating in animals that have not yet been passed to humans. COVID-19, meanwhile, is a 'novel' coronavirus, meaning it is a new strain and has not been previously identified in humans.

## How is the virus transmitted? (This is the explanation text)

The disease can be spread from person to person through moisture from the nose or mouth, which is passed on when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Droplets of moisture land on objects and surfaces around the person and are passed on when another person touches those surfaces or objects and then touches their nose or mouth.

That is why health authorities have warned people to stay at least a metre away from anyone who is sick, and advised those who are sick to cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze.

