

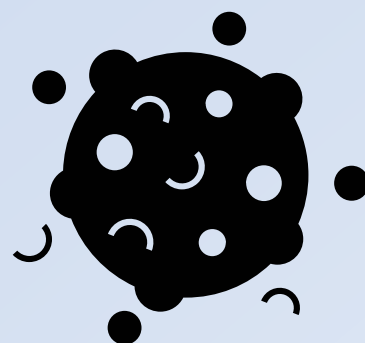
# COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

## How is COVID-19 spread?

March 2020

## What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It's caused by a type of coronavirus. There are simple steps you can take to protect you and your family/whānau.



## How is it spread?

COVID-19, like the flu, can be spread from person to person. When a person who has COVID-19 coughs, sneezes or talks, they may spread droplets containing the virus a short distance, which quickly settle on surrounding surfaces.

You may get infected by the virus if you touch those surfaces or objects and then touch your mouth, nose or eyes.

That's why it's really important to use good hygiene, regularly wash and thoroughly dry your hands, and use good cough etiquette.

## What can I do to stop COVID-19 spreading?

- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues.
- Put used tissues in the bin or a bag immediately.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often (for at least 20 seconds).
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.
- Avoid personal contact, such as kissing, sharing cups or food with sick people.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as doorknobs.
- Stay home if you feel unwell and call Healthline on 0800 358 5453.

**Call Healthline 24/7 on 0800 358 5453 if you need to speak to someone.**

**Visit [www.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus](https://www.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus) for more information.**