

# The Coronavirus

**Read the article and answer the questions.**

Coronaviruses are named for their spikes, which look similar to a crown or the sun's corona, that are part of their membranes. They can infect both animals and people, and can cause illnesses of the respiratory system. Most respiratory viruses are transmitted through coughing and sneezing.



Chinese researchers identified a new coronavirus as the pathogen behind the mysterious illness that sickened many people in Wuhan. The cases were linked to a market that sold live fish, animals and birds. The market was later shut down and disinfected. Bats are considered a possible source, because they have evolved to coexist with many viruses, including coronaviruses. Symptoms of this virus include fever, severe cough and difficulty breathing or shortness of breath. The illness damages the lung and causes pneumonia.

Chinese scientists have warned that some infected people may transmit the virus to others even before they develop illness or experience any symptoms. If people with no symptoms at all or mild symptoms unrelated to respiratory illness — like headache or back ache — can transmit the virus, that's "bad news," said Dr. William Schaffner, an expert in infectious diseases at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, according to the New York Times.



Wearing a mask and gloves helps protect you and the people around you from illness by reducing the risk that the infection will spread. Wearing a mask may protect you from infection in a crowd if there is an outbreak. Wearing gloves may protect you from contaminated surfaces. Failure to take precautions against the virus can lead to an exponential increase in the infection and deaths rates.

1. What does the coronavirus look like?

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2. What happened to the market where the coronavirus is believed to have jumped from animals to humans?

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3. What is "bad news", according to the infectious diseases expert?

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- 4 How might masks protect against the virus?

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- 5 Why do medical professionals wear gloves when treating patients with virus?

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- 6 What will happen if people fail to take precautions?

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## Answers

- 1 It looks like a crown or the sun's corona.
- 2 It was shut down and disinfected.
- 3 People with no symptoms can transmit the virus.
4. Masks may protect you in a crowd.
5. Gloves can protect you from picking up the virus from contaminated surfaces.
6. The infection and death rates will increase exponentially.