



European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control

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All topics: A to Z

News & events

Publications & data

Tools

About us



[Home](#) > [All topics: A to Z](#) > [Coronavirus](#) > [Threats and outbreaks](#) > [COVID-19](#)

COVID-19

Overview

At the end of December 2019, Chinese public health authorities reported several cases of acute respiratory syndrome in Wuhan City, Hubei province, China. Chinese scientists soon identified a novel coronavirus as the main causative agent. The disease is now referred to as coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), and the causative virus is called severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). It is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans.

The initial outbreak in Wuhan spread rapidly, affecting other parts of China. Cases were soon detected in several other countries. Outbreaks and clusters of the disease have since been observed in Asia, Europe,

Latest updates

[Publication](#)

Rapid risk assessment: Novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic: increased transmission in the EU/EEA and the UK – sixth update >

Risk assessment - 12 Mar 2020

[Data](#)

Video on COVID-19: Why social distancing is important >

Video - 18 Mar 2020