







COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019)

Overview

- **Description:** acute infectious respiratory disease caused by infection with the coronavirus subtype SARS-CoV-2, first detected in Wuhan, China, in December 2019
- **Epidemiology:** The greatest number of confirmed cases and deaths has been reported from mainland China. The disease is currently spreading worldwide.
- **Incubation period:** 2-14 days
- **Transmission:** person-to-person, primarily via respiratory droplets (sneezing and coughing) 
 - Direct contact transmission: especially hand-to-face contact 
 - Fomite transmission: not documented but conceivably possible, especially with objects and surfaces that may have recently come into contact with infected individuals 
 - Transmission via mail and packaged (imported) goods: There is no evidence to suggest that mail and packaged (imported) goods pose a risk for the spread of COVID-19.
 - Fecal-oral transmission: Evidence that both SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV are excreted fecally suggests that fecal-oral transmission is possible. ^[1]

 The transmission of SARS-CoV-2 by asymptomatic individuals can occur, but individuals are most contagious when they are symptomatic.



Additional free AMBOSS resources for COVID-19

In addition to this learning card, the AMBOSS team offers further learning cards in the library that are relevant for treatment of severe COVID-19. Access to the following learning cards is possible without a paid AMBOSS subscription:

- Airway management
- Acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS)
- Sepsis
- Pneumonia
- Nosocomial infections

References:^{[2][3]}