What is COVID-19?
COVID-19 is a respiratory illness. It is caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. This virus was first identified in 2019 in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. It is different from any other coronaviruses that have been found in people before.

What are the symptoms and complications of COVID-19?
People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms reported, ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may include:
- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle pain or body aches
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Complications of COVID-19 may include respiratory failure, shock or multiorgan system dysfunction.

How does the virus spread?
The virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet). Some recent studies suggest that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not displaying symptoms. It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a contaminated surface or object and then touching their own, mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes (this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads).

The virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading very easily and sustainably between people.

Prevention and Control
The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to COVID-19. The virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs. Spread is more likely between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet). To prevent illness:
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, stay at home as much as possible, and put distance between yourself and other people.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
• **Wash hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place or after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing.

• If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.

• Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

**Is there a vaccine?**

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19.

**What are the treatments?**

Treatment is supportive. There are currently no FDA-approved drugs.

**What do I do if I am sick with COVID-19 and have pets?**

If you are sick with COVID-19 (either suspected or confirmed by a test), you should restrict contact with your pets and other animals, just like you would with people.

• Have another member of your household care for your pets while you are sick, if possible.

• Avoid contact with your pet including petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked and sharing food or bedding.

• If you must care for your pet or be around other animals while you are sick, wear a cloth face covering and wash your hands before and after you interact with them.

If you are sick with COVID-19 and your pet becomes sick, do not take your pet to the veterinary clinic yourself. Call your veterinarian and let them know you have been sick with COVID-19. Some veterinarians may offer telemedicine consultations or other plans for seeing sick pets. Your veterinarian can evaluate your pet and determine the next steps for your pet’s treatment and care. Routine testing of animals is not recommended at this time.

**What can I do to protect my pet and my family from COVID-19?**

Until we learn more about how this virus affects animals, treat pets as you would other human family members to protect them from a possible infection.

• Do not let pets interact with people or other animals outside the household.

• Keep cats indoors when possible to prevent them from interacting with other animals or people.

• Walk dogs on a leash, maintaining at least 6 feet (2 meters) from other people and animals.

• Avoid dog parks or public places where a large number of people and dogs gather.