What is it?

The 2019 new coronavirus is a respiratory illness first identified in Wuhan, China. It has the potential to cause illness, ranging from the common cold to more serious respiratory diseases, like pneumonia.

How is it spread?

- Through the air by coughing and sneezing.
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands.
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.

What are the symptoms?

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Runny nose
- Pneumonia or bronchitis
- Headache
- Sore throat
- A general feeling of being ill

How is it prevented and treated?

Similar to prevention of other respiratory illnesses, including the flu:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands;
- Avoid contact with sick people;
- Stay home while you are sick and avoid others;
- Cover mouth/nose with a tissue/sleeve when coughing/sneezing; and
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

There is no treatment (medications nor vaccine) for the new 2019 coronavirus. People who think they may have been exposed should contact their healthcare provider immediately.