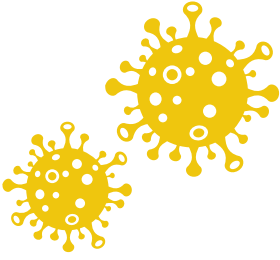# What is COVID-19?

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a disease caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2. It spreads between people mainly through the air. Many people have mild symptoms or even no symptoms, but COVID-19 can also cause severe illness and death. People can spread the virus even if they don't have symptoms.

What are the symptoms?

COVID-19 symptoms often feel like you have a cold or a flu. Some people who have COVID-19 never feel sick.

Common symptoms include:

- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Trouble breathing
- Fever or chills
- Fatigue

- Muscle or body aches
- Sore throat
- Stuffy or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

COVID-19 can cause other symptoms as well.

Long COVID

Some people suffer from new or on-going symptoms for weeks or months after getting infected with COVID-19. This is known as long COVID or post-COVID. This can include people who had no symptoms or mild symptoms when they were infected.

Long COVID-19 includes a wide range of symptoms including tiredness, headache, joint or muscle pain, mood or sleep changes, respiratory symptoms and difficulty thinking.

Who is at the most risk?

- Adults and children who are not fully vaccinated are at the highest risk of getting COVID-19.
- Unvaccinated adults who are older and who have certain medical conditions are at highest risk of getting very sick and dying from COVID-19.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health