

Coronavirus Infection

What is the coronavirus?

A virus is a pathogen.

A virus is tiny.

To make it visible, you need a very good microscope.



Sometimes a virus changes, and a new virus develops.

A new virus may be dangerous, because the human body does not yet know the new virus.

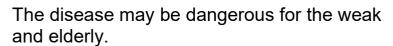
So, the body **has no** defenses against the virus and people fall ill.



The **coronavirus** is thus a novel virus.

Signs of infection are:

- Runny nose and coughing
- Fever
- Difficulties in breathing



Some people die of the disease.





A person carrying the coronavirus may infect other people.

For example:

When a person coughs on other persons. When a person sneezes in the vicinity of other persons.





Where does the coronavirus come from?

The **coronavirus** disease came up in December 2019. It was detected for the first time in Wuhan, a city in China. Meanwhile very many people have taken ill in China.



Wuhan is far away from Germany, almost 8,500 km.

By plane it takes about 15 hours to get there.



Nevertheless, the disease may come to Germany.

For example:

Someone flies from China to Germany.

This person carries the **coronavirus**.

But he/she is **not** aware of it because it takes several days before the disease is diagnosed.



What can people in Germany do?

When you got infected, fever, a running nose and coughing are typical symptoms Contact a doctor.

You may be taken to a hospital.

At the hospital you will be treated for the disease.



Things helping to avoid an infection:

- Wash your hands regularly with soap.
- Use a handkerchief when having a running nose



The Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of North Rhine Westphalia prepared this text. The Free State of Thuringia has been granted the right of use. The pictures were provided by Lebenshilfe für Menschen mit geistiger Behinderung Bremen e.V., Illustrator Stefan Albers, Atelier Fleetinsel, 2013. The European logo for simple language is that of Inclusion Europe.