What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. Coronavirus is a large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats and bats.

What can you do to prevent the spread of COVID-19?

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) always recommends the following actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases:

- Stay home when you are sick
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth

Face masks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. People who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their health care provider immediately.