# Coronavirus: What is it?

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a **virus** that has affected many people around the world.

A virus is an illness or disease that can spread easily from one person to another person.

Coronavirus is spreading quickly.

Coronavirus has been called a **pandemic**.

A pandemic happens when a virus spreads quickly to lots of countries around the world.

## What are the symptoms?

The symptoms of coronavirus are:

* fever
* sore throat
* cough
* fatigue
* shortness of breath.

**If you have trouble breathing, call an ambulance straight away   
on 000.**

These symptoms are very similar to other colds and flu. So you may not have coronavirus.

If you’re feeling sick, you should stay at home.

Call your doctor. Do not go to the doctor – call first.

They will tell you if you need to be tested.

You might need to be tested if you:

* just came back from overseas
* have been in contact with someone who has coronavirus.

## More information

Information and support are available. You are not alone.

Contact the Disability Gateway by:

* calling **1800 643 787** 8 am to 8 pm, Monday to Friday
* visiting [www.disabilitygateway.gov.au](http://www.disabilitygateway.gov.au)

If you need information in a language other than English, call the Translating and Interpreting Service on **131 450**.

If you are deaf, or have a hearing or speech impairment, you can call the National Relay Service on **133 677**.

The Information Access Group created this Easy Read document. For any enquiries about the document, please visit [www.informationaccessgroup.com](http://www.informationaccessgroup.com). Quote job number 3894-A.

Last updated February 2021.