

From the New Scientist website
(<https://www.newscientist.com/term/coronavirus/>)

Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that usually cause mild illnesses, such as the common cold. However, certain types of coronavirus can infect the lower airway, causing serious illnesses like pneumonia or bronchitis. Most people get infected with coronaviruses at some point in their lives and the majority of these infections are harmless.

Read more: <https://www.newscientist.com/term/coronavirus/#ixzz6HhSWA967>

Covid-19 is a disease caused by a kind of coronavirus which first originated in Wuhan, China, in late 2019.

Cases of Covid-19 first emerged in December 2019, when a mysterious illness was reported in Wuhan, China. The cause of the disease was soon confirmed as a new kind of coronavirus and the infection has spread to a number of countries around the world.

On 11 February the World Health Organization announced that the official name would be covid-19, a shortened version of coronavirus disease 2019. The WHO refers to the specific virus that causes this disease as the covid-19 virus.

This is not the formal name for the virus – the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses calls it the “severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2”, or SARS-CoV-2, because it is related to the virus that caused the SARS outbreak in 2003. However, to avoid confusion with SARS the WHO calls it the covid-19 virus when communicating with the public.

Read more: <https://www.newscientist.com/term/covid-19/#ixzz6HhWRZq1Q>