

Dec 31st, 2019

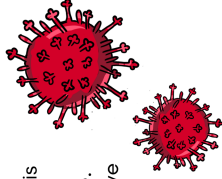
China reports that there were a cluster of lung infections from an unknown cause in Wuhan, China.



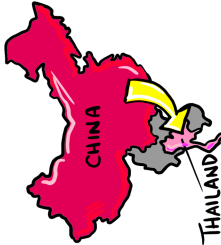
The people with these lung infections had visited a market which suggested the virus was transmitted to humans from an animal (possibly a bat).

Early January 2020

The cause of these lung infections is found to be a new virus that has never been seen in humans before. Doctors think that the virus may have originally come from a virus that used to only infect animals.



Some viruses began in animals, like Swine flu (pigs) and Bird flu. This one may have come from bats. However once it became infectious to humans, the animals from which it came is no longer a problem.



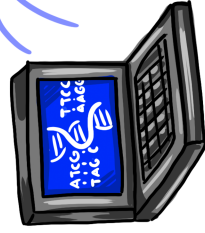
January 13th, 2020

Thailand reports a person infected with this new virus

This is the first case reported outside of China, indicating that the virus was spreading

January 12th, 2020

China shares the new virus's DNA with the world.



Why is this important? (Go to your **worksheet** to answer the question)

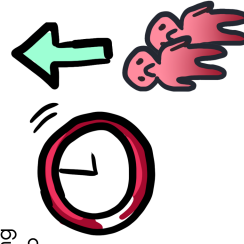
February 11th, 2020

The WHO names the new coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 because of its similarity to a previous coronavirus, SARS-CoV. The SARS-CoV-2 virus causes the disease called COVID-19.



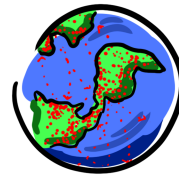
January 22nd, 2020

The World Health Organization (WHO) announces that there is evidence of human-to-human transmission of the virus, meaning people can transmit the virus to other people.



March 11th, 2020

The WHO classifies COVID-19 as a pandemic due to its rapid spread throughout the world as a new virus.



Human-to-human transmission is necessary for rapid spread of the disease. To show how quickly the virus spread around to world, see the following animated chart from the New York Times: <https://www.devex.com/news/covid-19-a-timeline-of-the-coronavirus-outbreak-96396>

December 2020

January 2020

February 2020

March 2020