Coronaviruses are a type of virus.As of now, researchers know that the coronavirus is spread through droplets and virus particles released into the air when an infected person breathes, talks, laughs, sings, coughs or sneezes.Larger droplets may fall to the ground in a few seconds, but tiny infectious particles can linger in the air and accumulate in indoor places, especially where many people are gathered and there is poor ventilation.A coronavirus identified in 2019, SARS-CoV-2, has caused a pandemic of respiratory illness, called COVID-19.In the past, several infectious disease outbreaks have been traced to viruses originating in birds, pigs, bats and other animals that mutated to become dangerous to humans.WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW COVID-19COVID-19 COVID-19 is the disease caused by SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that emerged in December 2019.This is why mask-wearing, hand hygiene and physical distancing are essential to preventing COVID-19.How did the coronavirus start?The first case of COVID-19 was reported Dec. 1, 2019, and the cause was a then-new coronavirus later named SARS-CoV-2.

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