What is coronavirus?

Coronavirus disease COVID-19 is an illness caused by a virus belonging to a large family of viruses, altogether called coronaviruses. The virus causing coronavirus disease COVID-19 can affect both animals and humans.

For more information visit: www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

In humans it can cause respiratory infections, from the common cold to more severe conditions, like pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome and sometimes death.

Some people become infected but don’t develop any symptoms and don’t feel unwell. Most people (about 80%) recover from the disease without needing special treatment. If you are living with HIV and not taking your medication, you might be at more risk of getting COVID-19 and it might be more difficult to recover.

Common COVID-19 symptoms

- A dry cough
- A high fever
- Other flu-like symptoms
- A sore throat
- A runny nose
- A loss of smell or taste
- A cough that is worse at night
- A cough that gets worse when lying down
- A cough that is new to you

In collaboration with: Africaid, CANGO, Frontline AIDS, Global Network of People Living with HIV (GNP+), Global Network of Young People Living with HIV (Y+), M&C Saatchi World Services, PATA, REPSSI and RNJ+

www.frontlineaids.org/ready

What you can do to stay healthy

1. If you are taking medication, do so as prescribed. Try to have at least a 30 days’ supply and contact your healthcare provider if you need a refill.

2. Speak to somebody if you are worried about COVID-19 – for example on the phone or by WhatsApp.

3. Support friends remotely who might be struggling emotionally or facing challenges at home.

4. Eat well and exercise safely for your physical and emotional wellbeing.

5. If you have any cold or flu-like symptoms – a new cough or fever – stay at home and call emergency services if you have difficulty breathing.

6. Do not socialise with friends in person – stay at home and only travel for essentials such as food shopping or collecting medication.

7. Wash your hands with soap for 20 seconds regularly, especially when you leave and enter your home.

8. Wear a mask and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

9. Be careful not to act on or pass on any information that has come from an unreliable source.

10. Stay at least 1-2 meters away from others when outside and avoid crowded places, as much as possible.