

# COVID-19

## FAST CLINICAL FACTS

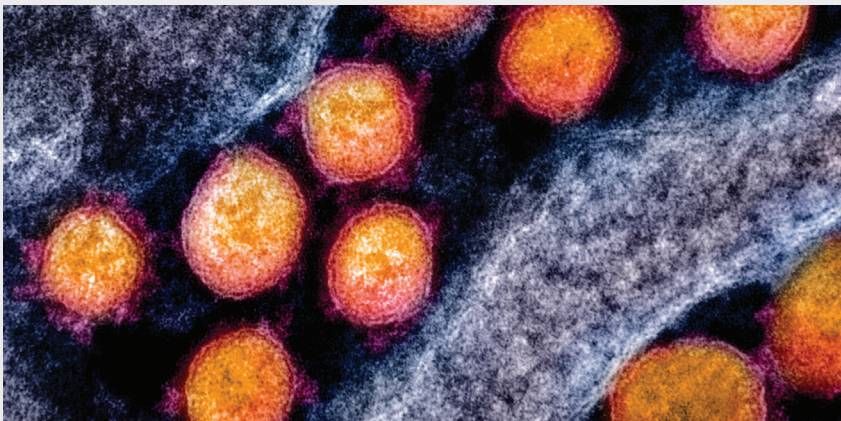
**Australia is experiencing a COVID-19 pandemic, leading to significant illness and social and economic hardship.**

### THE VIRUS

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a viral illness caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

The virus was first isolated from lower respiratory tract samples of patients with pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan, China.

The first COVID-19 case in Australia was diagnosed and the virus isolated in January 2020.



Transmission electron micrograph of SARS-CoV-2 virus particles, isolated from a patient. Image captured and colour-enhanced at the NIAID Integrated Research Facility (IRF) in Fort Detrick, Maryland. Credit: NIAID

### TRANSMISSION

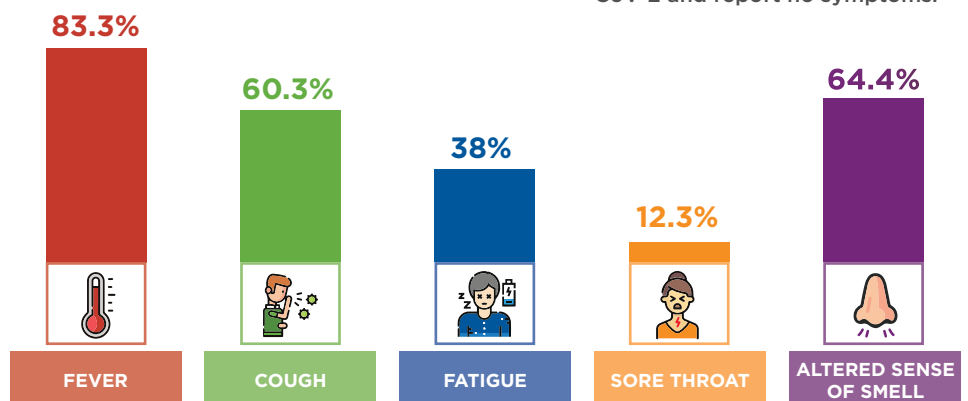
- SARS-CoV-2 is highly contagious in humans.
- The virus is transmitted via contact with respiratory droplets from inhalation, contaminated hands, or surfaces.
- Respiratory droplets come from an infected person by coughing, exhalation or with nebulisation therapy.
- The period someone is infectious is not yet known. Some people are asymptomatic and in others, SARS-CoV-2 may be detected before they develop respiratory symptoms.
- The time of exposure to development of symptoms is estimated to be approximately 5 days (range 1-14 days).

### IMPACT

- Most people have mild or moderate disease severity.
- Severe COVID-19 disease occurs in up to 25% of infected people, acute respiratory distress syndrome occurs in between 5 and 30% of this population.
- People with chronic respiratory diseases have reduced respiratory reserve and may experience a more severe clinical illness if infected with COVID-19.

### COMMON SYMPTOMS

Some people can be infected with SARS-CoV-2 and report no symptoms.



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