The spread of the new coronavirus has reached a pandemic, spanning 155 countries and regions, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared, as disruptions to daily life ricocheted globally.

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new strain of coronavirus. The disease caused by the novel coronavirus identified first in Wuhan, China, has been given the name – coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). ‘CO’ denotes corona, ‘VI’ for virus, and ‘D’ for disease. The disease was formerly referred to as ‘2019-nCoV’ or ‘2019 novel coronavirus’. The COVID-19 is related to the same family of viruses as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and some types of common cold.

The virus is transmitted through direct contact with droplets of an infected person (usually via sneezing or coughing), and touching surfaces that are contaminated with the virus. The virus may survive on a surface for several hours.

**What is the Novel Coronavirus?**

**Origin:** Wuhan, China

**What is a Pandemic?**

Per WHO, a pandemic is declared when a new disease for which individuals do not have immunity starts spreading around the world and beyond expectations.

**How many people have been affected?**

Per the Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering, as of 17 March 18:23 IST,

- Over 185,000 individuals have been infected with coronavirus in 155 countries/regions
- 7,330 deaths have been recorded globally
- Out of these, about 3,111 have occurred in China
- 80,236 individuals have recovered from the coronavirus

**Corona Virus**

Wash your hands frequently

Washing hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub kills viruses.

Monitor your touch

Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth since hands touch different surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your nose, eyes, or mouth. From there, the virus may enter your body, making you sick.

Practice respiratory hygiene

This means covering your nose and mouth with your elbow or tissue while coughing or sneezing. Then disposing the used tissue right away.

**Medical Care**

If you have a cold or fever, seek medical care.

Stay Safe. Keep Safe.

Be aware of the latest developments about COVID-19. Follow advice given by your healthcare provider and national public health authority regarding how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.