

Just For Kids: A Comic Exploring The New Coronavirus

by Malaka Gharib

It's based on a radio story that NPR education reporter Cory Turner did. He asked some experts what kids might want to know about the new coronavirus discovered in China. To make this comic, we've used his interviews with [Tara Powell](#) at the University of Illinois School of Social Work, [Joy Osofsky](#) at the LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans and [Krystal Lewis](#) at the National Institute of Mental Health.

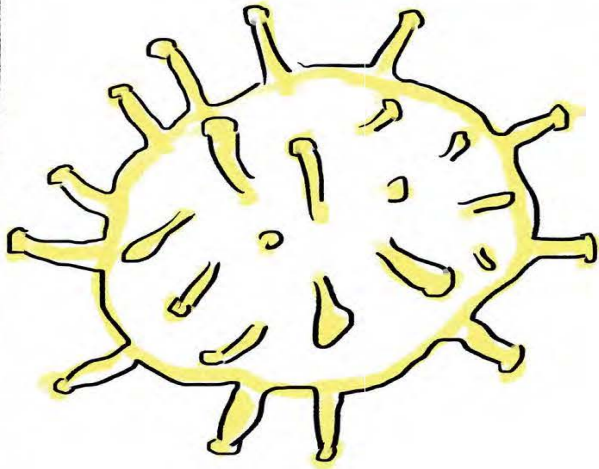
It's a word you might have heard
at school or online or on T.V.



This **coronavirus** is a newly discovered virus. It causes a disease called COVID-19.

In some parts of the world it has made lots of people sick.

Coronavirus Facts



- "Corona" is Latin for crown.
- Under a microscope these viruses look like a crown with spikes ending in little blobs.

A lot of the symptoms are similar to the flu (which you might have had before!)



Dry, itchy cough



Fever



Kinda hard to breathe

Most people who have gotten sick with this coronavirus have had a mild case.

And there aren't a lot of cases in kids. If kids do get the virus, it tends to be very mild.



People who are much older or who already have health problems are more likely to get sicker with coronavirus.



WHAT ABOUT DAD AND MOM AND GRANDPA AND GRANDMA AND UNCLE AND AUNTIE !!!

If anyone gets sick and feels like they might have coronavirus, they can immediately call their doctors and get help.



In the U.S. we don't have a lot of coronavirus cases. Medical people are tracking the disease very carefully and are trying to make sure it doesn't spread.

LET'S FIND THAT CORONAVIRUS!



(THE VIRUS...
SOMEWHERE OUT THERE
IN THE WORLD)

AND LET'S
STOP IT!

If there's anything you might be
confused or worried about, don't be
afraid to ask
someone you
TRUST.



UNCLE! I SEE A LOT
OF PEOPLE WEARING FACE
MASKS DOES THAT MEAN
THEY HAVE CORONAVIRUS?



NO.
MAYBE THEY'RE TRYING NOT
TO GET SICK. OR THEY MAY BE
SICK WITH SOME OTHER ILLNESS!

BUT MY FRIEND
AT SCHOOL TOLD
ME—



DON'T LISTEN TO YOUR FRIEND!
LISTEN TO ME.

There are some things you can do to protect yourself, family and friends from getting sick.

1) WASH YOUR HANDS OFTEN

★ USE SOAP AND WATER

★ WASH FOR AT LEAST 20 SECONDS. IF IT HELPS, SING THE ABC'S WHILE YOU DO IT— THAT'S ABOUT 20 SECONDS.

★ WASH AFTER USING THE BATHROOM OR BEING IN PUBLIC SPACES (LIKE THE BUS OR PLAYGROUND).

★ TRY TO GET INTO ALL THE NOOKS + CRANNIES!



2) SNEEZE INTO YOUR ELBOWS

★ CORONAVIRUS IS BELIEVED TO SPREAD THROUGH LITTLE DROPLETS OF FLUID FROM YOUR LUNGS.

★ IF YOU SNEEZE INTO YOUR ELBOWS, YOU CAN PREVENT GERMS FROM GOING INTO THE AIR AND ONTO YOUR HANDS.



③ AVOID TOUCHING YOUR FACE

★ DON'T PICK YOUR NOSE, DON'T TOUCH YOUR MOUTH, DON'T RUB YOUR EYES.



★ THESE ARE THE PLACES WHERE GERMS ENTER OUR BODIES.



It's very important to remember that this kind of virus can affect

ANYBODY.

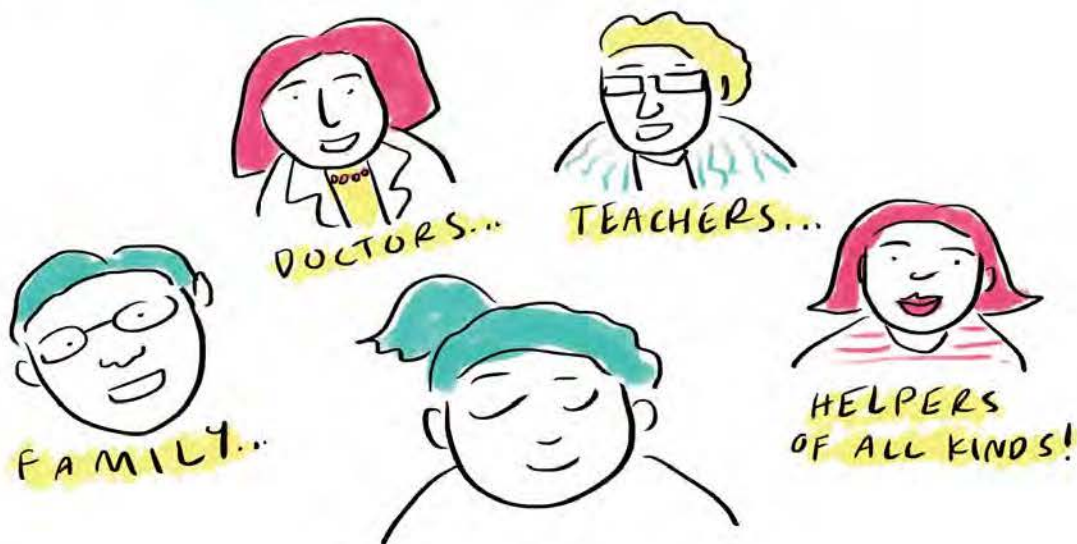
It doesn't matter where you come from or what country your parents are from.



Just because someone looks different or talks differently doesn't mean that they are at a higher risk of getting the coronavirus or spreading it.

AND DON'T FORGET!

There are a LOT of helpers out there who are working to protect you. It is NOT your job to worry.



But seriously, though...
PLEASE wash your hands!!!

