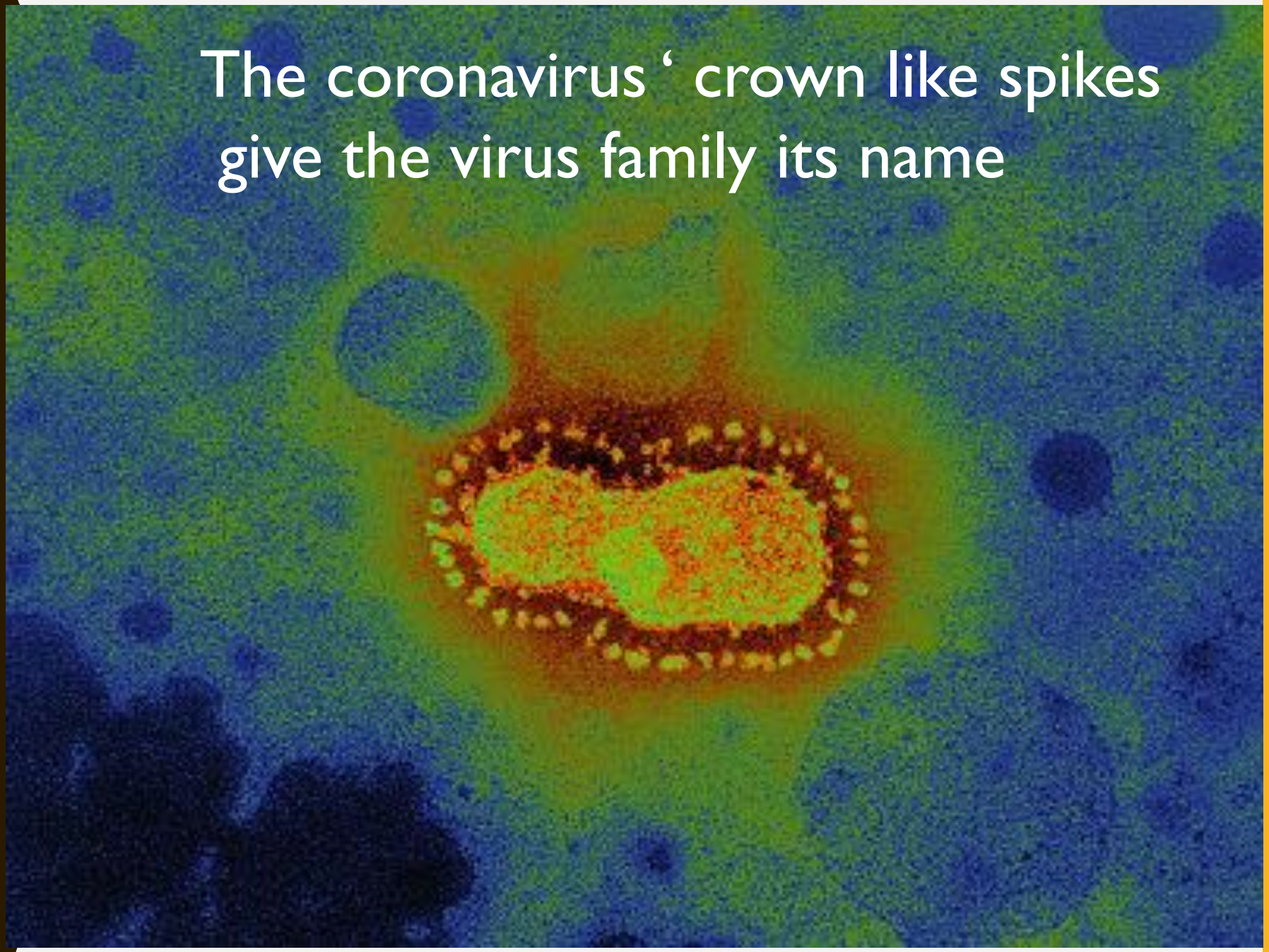

What do you know about
MICRO-ORGANISMS??

THINK, PAIR, SHARE:

Friday 13th March

How can micro-organisms spread?

The coronavirus ‘ crown like spikes give the virus family its name



SARS –CoV-2 is the name of the virus that causes COVID-19

Causes mild respiratory illnesses, such as the common cold

Coronovirus COVID -19

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV).

Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted between animals and people.

Emerged from Hubei Province, China in December 2019

What are the symptoms?

- ❑ Fever
- ❑ Cough
- ❑ Shortness of breath

Risk Factors and Severity

- People with COVID-19 can have no symptoms or develop mild, severe, or fatal illness
- Kids may have less severe disease
- Current case fatality rate ~2% among those with laboratory-confirmed COVID-19
- Risk factors for severe illness may include:
    - Older age
    - Underlying chronic medical conditions

How does the virus spread?

- Primarily spreads person-to-person via respiratory droplets from coughs or sneezes (like the flu)
- Possibly spread by touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching mouth, nose, or eyes
- Possibly spread through stool with the virus in it
- It takes approximately 2 to 14 days (median ~5 days) for an infected person to show symptoms
- People likely most infectious while they are most symptomatic (e.g., coughing and sneezing)
- Spread from people without symptoms appears possible

Treatment and Vaccine

- Treatment
- No specific treatment currently available
- Supportive management of complications, including advanced organ support if indicated
- Anti-viral medications under investigation

- Vaccines are under development
- Phase 1 trials in people may occur within 2 months

Strategy now is to slow the spread of the virus (i.e., contain the virus) so that we have time to:

- Prepare the healthcare system and the general public
- Better characterize the infection to guide public health recommendations and development of medical countermeasures including diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines
- "Current global circumstances suggest it is likely that this virus will cause a pandemic"

Source:
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html#risk-assessment

When a new virus is discovered, what information does the WHO and global health community need to learn about it?

Examples:
How is it transmitted?
What is the incubation period?
Can it be passed on person to person?
Can the virus be passed on when the person is asymptomatic?
Is this a new virus or a mutated virus?
How does it affect people's bodies?
What are the best medical responses to this new virus?