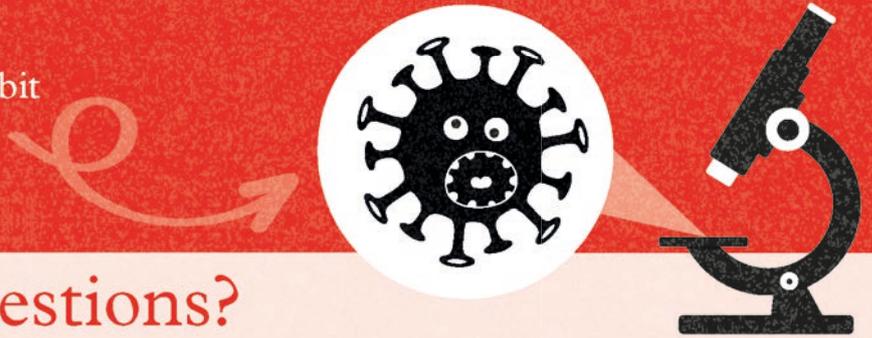


Coronavirus is a big name for a teeny tiny little bug.

If you look at it through a microscope, it looks a bit like this:



Have you got questions?

Why isn't there medicine for the bug?

There is medicine to help us treat it, but because it's a brand new bug, at the moment we don't have medicine to stop people getting it. But we are working on that right now and we will have medicine to stop it soon!

If I get the bug, will I die?

Kids are super lucky! They only get the bug very mildly. So you may get it, but it will be a bit like getting a cold. You may not even know you've got it!

If my mum or dad get the bug, will they die?

Most people who get the bug are just fine. They might be a bit grumpy and need looking after. They might need to keep a little way away from you, just while they are ill. But most people get better again very quickly.

If someone I know goes to hospital, will they die?

A very few people may need to go to hospital, but that's just so they can get extra medicine and help. Most people get better, even if they have to go to hospital.

While they are in hospital, we may not be able to visit. That's just so we don't spread the bug. But we'll be able to see them once they are better.

If my grandparents get the bug, will they die?

Most people – even older people or ill people – get better. So even if they get the bug, they should be fine. But if they are older or ill already, it might take them a bit longer to feel well again. So we have to work very hard to send them pictures and letters to keep them feeling cheery.

Why am I having to stop school?

Although kids only get the bug mildly, they can spread it to other people. The government has closed the schools for now just to stop kids spreading the bug to other people. They will open the schools again when it's safe.

Why are people buying lots of toilet roll and food?

People are buying things in case they need to stay in their homes while they have the bug. It means some things are hard to get, but that won't last. Nobody will run out of food – there's plenty being made, it just needs a little while to get to the shops.

Where did the bug come from? Will it happen again?

Sometimes bugs like this just happen. It's very rare, and most of the time they stop very quickly. This one will disappear too, or we will have medicine to get rid of it.

How long will this last?

Nobody quite knows at the moment, but it will be a few weeks. That's just to make sure that as many people as possible are safe. We'll get used to the new way of doing things very quickly. People are good at dealing with changes like this.

Can I go and play with my friends while we're off school?

That will be up to your parents or carers, but they may decide it's best for you not to play with your friends for a while. But you'll still be able to call them or see them on the computer! And you'll be able to play with them again once the schools are open.

Please remember

It will pass. It may feel like it's going on for a while, but it will pass. And we'll remember that weird summer when we got to stay off school!