



# ASHRAE EPIDEMIC TASK FORCE

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## **Information on SARS-CoV-2**

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# Information on SARS-CoV-2



SARS = Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome  
Co = Coronavirus  
V = Virus

- SARS-CoV-2 = severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2

There is a SARS-CoV from 2003:

- SARS coronavirus (SARS-CoV) was a virus identified in 2003. SARS-CoV is thought to be an animal virus from an as-yet-uncertain animal reservoir, perhaps bats, that spread to other animals (civet cats) and first infected humans in the Guangdong province of southern China in 2002.

# Information on SARS-CoV-2



Why do the virus and the disease have different names?

- Viruses, and the diseases they cause, often have different names. For example, HIV is the virus that causes AIDS. People often know the name of a disease, but not the name of the virus that causes it.

There are different processes and purposes for naming viruses and diseases.

- Viruses are named based on their genetic structure to facilitate the development of diagnostic tests, vaccines and medicines. Virologists and the wider scientific community do this work, so viruses are named by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (ICTV).



# Information on SARS-CoV-2



WHO = World Health Organization

How are Viruses and Diseases Named?

- Diseases are named to enable discussion on disease prevention, spread, transmissibility, severity and treatment. Human disease preparedness and response is WHO's role, so diseases are officially named by WHO in the International Classification of Diseases (ICD).
- ICTV announced “severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)” as the name of the new virus on 11 February 2020. This name was chosen because the virus is genetically related to the coronavirus responsible for the SARS outbreak of 2003. While related, the two viruses are different.



# Information on SARS-CoV-2



Co = Coronavirus  
VI = Virus  
D = Disease  
19 = 2019

COVID-19 = coronavirus disease 2019

- WHO announced “COVID-19” as the name of this new disease on February 11, 2020, following guidelines previously developed with the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

# Information on SARS-CoV-2



Where did SARS-CoV-2 come from?

- The first human cases of COVID-19 were identified in Wuhan City, China in December 2019. At this stage, it is not possible to determine precisely how humans in China were initially infected with SARS-CoV-2 and thereby developed the disease COVID-19.

# Disclaimer



*This ASHRAE guidance document is based on the evidence and knowledge available to ASHRAE as of the date of this document. Knowledge regarding transmission of COVID-19 is rapidly evolving. This guidance should be read in conjunction with the relevant government guidance and available research. This material is not a substitute for the advice of a qualified professional. By adopting these recommendations for use, each adopter agrees to accept full responsibility for any personal injury, death, loss, damage or delay arising out of or in connection with their use by or on behalf of such adopter irrespective of the cause or reason therefore and agrees to defend, indemnify and hold harmless ASHRAE, the authors, and others involved in their publication from any and all liability arising out of or in connection with such use as aforesaid and irrespective of any negligence on the part of those indemnified.*