People can acquire COVID-19 from others who have the virus. The disease can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth which are spread when a person with COVID-19 coughs or exhales. Other people can then acquire COVID-19 by touching objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose or mouth. People can also acquire COVID-19 if they breathe in droplets from a person with COVID-19 who coughs out or exhales droplets.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is assessing ongoing research on the ways COVID-19 is spread. For the latest information, see https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019.

The main symptoms feel like the flu or a really bad cold:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing

For many people, COVID-19 infection can be mild and they make a full recovery with minimal intervention. However, it can be much more serious for people with underlying health conditions, and people with weakened immune systems.

Providing Comprehensive HIV Services for and with People who Use Drugs During the COVID-19 Outbreak

01 People who use drugs can be particularly vulnerable to COVID-19 due to underlying health issues, stigma, social marginalization and higher economic and social vulnerabilities, including a lack of access to housing and health care.

02 People have the right to health even in countries under lockdown or where a state of emergency has been declared. This includes access to life-saving comprehensive HIV harm reduction services and programmes.

03 The continuity and sustainability of comprehensive HIV, HCV and other low-threshold services for people who use drugs must be ensured during the COVID-19 epidemic.

04 Closing down services will only result in the overcrowding of those that stay open, which will increase transmission risks and impact on service quality.

05 Comprehensive HIV, HCV and other low-threshold services for people who use drugs should establish a safe working environment.

06 Adequate funding should be made available.