WHAT IS A CORONOVIRUS?
It’s a virus. Viruses are tiny particles, so small we cannot even see them! Even though we can’t see them with our eyes, they can actually make us sick.

We can see viruses under a microscope. A microscope zooms way into tiny objects that we cannot see with our eyes alone. Almost like binoculars! When we look at different viruses under a microscope, each virus looks different. Even though they look a little different from one another, viruses have something in common. They all have little bits or pieces that stick out of them. These pieces that stick out are designed to stick to different parts of our body depending on what type of virus it is. The common cold can be caused by a type of coronavirus. The coronavirus that causes a common cold has pieces that are designed to attach to cells in your nose or throat. That can give you a stuffy nose and make you feel really miserable! Usually with the common cold, you rest for a while, drink lots of water, and maybe take some medicine that helps you feel better. The coronavirus that causes the disease, COVID-19, also has pieces that are designed to stick to the cells in our lungs. Our lungs help us breathe, so some people who are getting this new type of coronavirus are feeling stuffy in their lungs and that can make them have a hard time breathing. They can have this difficulty breathing in addition to other common symptoms like aches and pains, fever, headache, cough and a sore throat. Anyone can get or spread the virus, it doesn’t matter how old you are.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU GET COVID-19?
Well, interestingly enough, it seems that almost all children and young people who get the COVID-19 virus don’t get very sick because their immune system is able to fight the virus off! Almost no people under the age of 18 have had very severe symptoms. Luckily, most people who get this virus will have mild symptoms. But, some people can get very, very sick from this virus. This can include older people, like grandparents, or people who already have other problems with their health. These people are not able to fight it as well.