

Contents

Foreword by Series Editor	page xi
Preface	xiii
List of Abbreviations	xvi
1 Introduction	1
2 How Is the Coronavirus Spreading?	7
How Long Does It Take to Have Symptoms?	8
How Many People Will the Virus Infect?	9
How Quickly Does the Virus Spread in the Population?	10
How Many People Will Die from the Disease?	12
How Does the Severity of Diseases Vary?	14
What Is "Flattening the Curve" and Why Is It Important?	16
What Is Herd Immunity?	18
3 What Is a Coronavirus?	21
What Is a Virus?	22
What Are the Coronaviruses?	23
Where Are Coronaviruses Found?	25
What Is the Structure of a Coronavirus?	26
How Does the Coronavirus Enter Cells and Replicate?	29
How Are the New Coronaviruses Released from the Infected Cell?	31
4 How Is the Coronavirus Changing?	33
What Is a Mutation?	34
What Is a Recombination?	37
How Do We Track Back the Origin of SARS-CoV-2?	40

8 Are There Therapeutic Options?	85
How Is the Virus Diagnosed?	85
How Are the Infections Treated?	88
Are There Any Drugs Used to Treat Coronavirus Infections?	88
Are There Vaccines for Coronaviruses?	90
 Conclusions	 91
Summary of Common Misunderstandings	95
Updates at Press	98
Suggested Further Reading	100
Figure and Quotation Credits	109
Index	112