

# NEW HUMAN CORONAVIRUSES AND RESPIRATORY TRACT DISEASES

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## *Abstract*

Eleven new viruses, causing respiratory tract diseases were discovered during the first 15 years of 21st century. Two coronaviruses SARS-CoV, causing Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome and MERS-CoV, causing Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, are among the most dangerous of them. Both viruses cause respiratory tract diseases, associated with high mortality. The article describes the structure, taxonomy, key biological and molecular-genetic properties of these coronaviruses. A special emphasis is made on circulation of viruses in the environment as well as on etiological diagnosis and clinical features of coronavirus infections.

**Key words:** coronaviruses SARS-CoV, MERS-CoV, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, etiological diagnosis.

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