**Manuscript category:** Letter to the Editor

**Title**: Basics of the coronavirus

**Keywords**: coronavirinae, coronavirus, severe acute respiratory syndrome, pandemic, virus transmission

**Author**:

1st author:

First Name: Christine, Pui Sum

Last name: Ho

Affiliation: Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China

Contributions: acquisition of data, drafting the article

2nd author and corresponding author:

First Name: Sunny, Chi Lik

Last Name: Au

Affiliation: Special out-patient clinic, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital, Hong Kong, China

Contact information:

Email address: [kilihcua@gmail.com](mailto:kilihcua@gmail.com)

Telephone: (852) 2595 7031

Postal address: L2W, Special out-patient clinic, Pamela Youde Nethersole Eastern Hospital, 3 Lok Man Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong, China

Contributions: Concept and design of study, acquisition of data, revising article critically for important intellectual content

**Total number of pages:** 3 pages

**Total number of photographs:** 0 figure

**Total number of tables:** 0 table

**Word counts for main text:** 489 words

**Previous presentation in meeting:** nil

**Patient Consent:** not applicable

**Funding/ Support:** nil

**Acknowledgements and Disclosures:** No funding or grant support

**Conflicts of interest:** All authors have no financial disclosures.