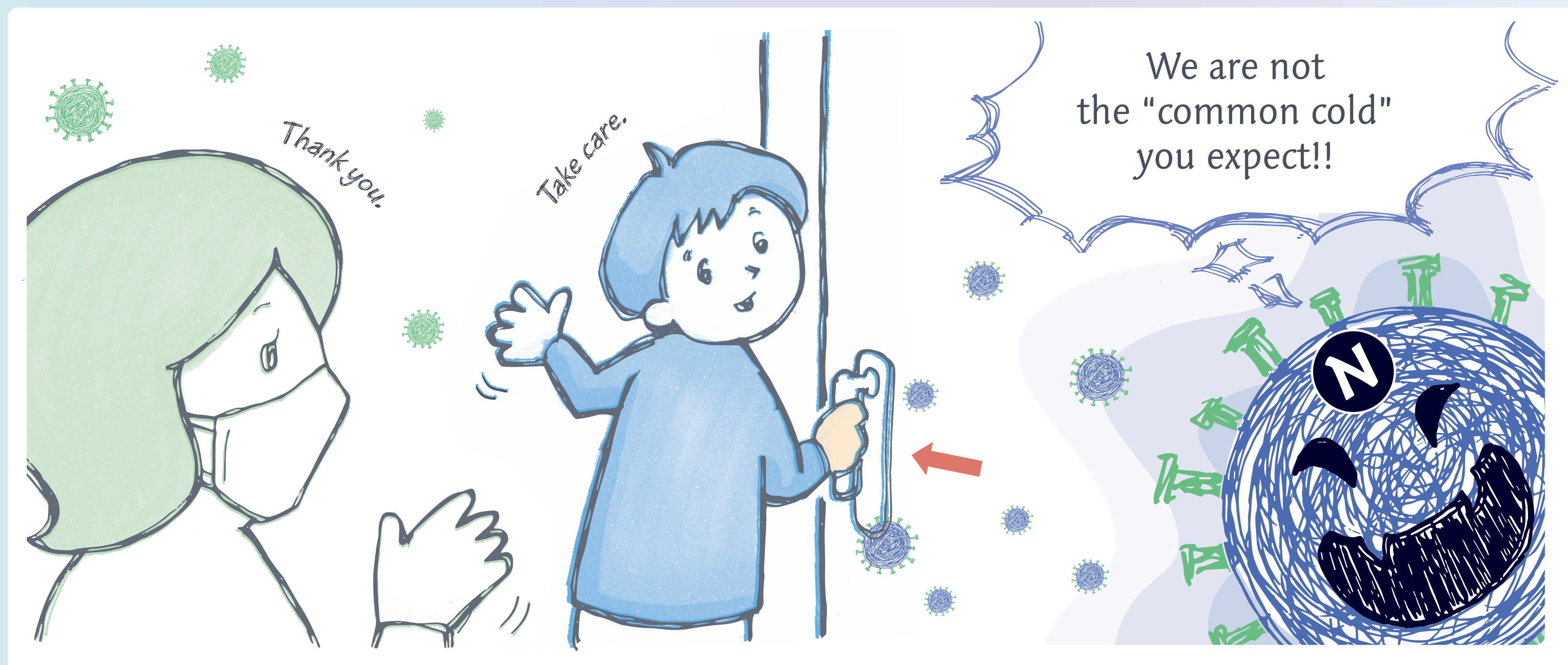


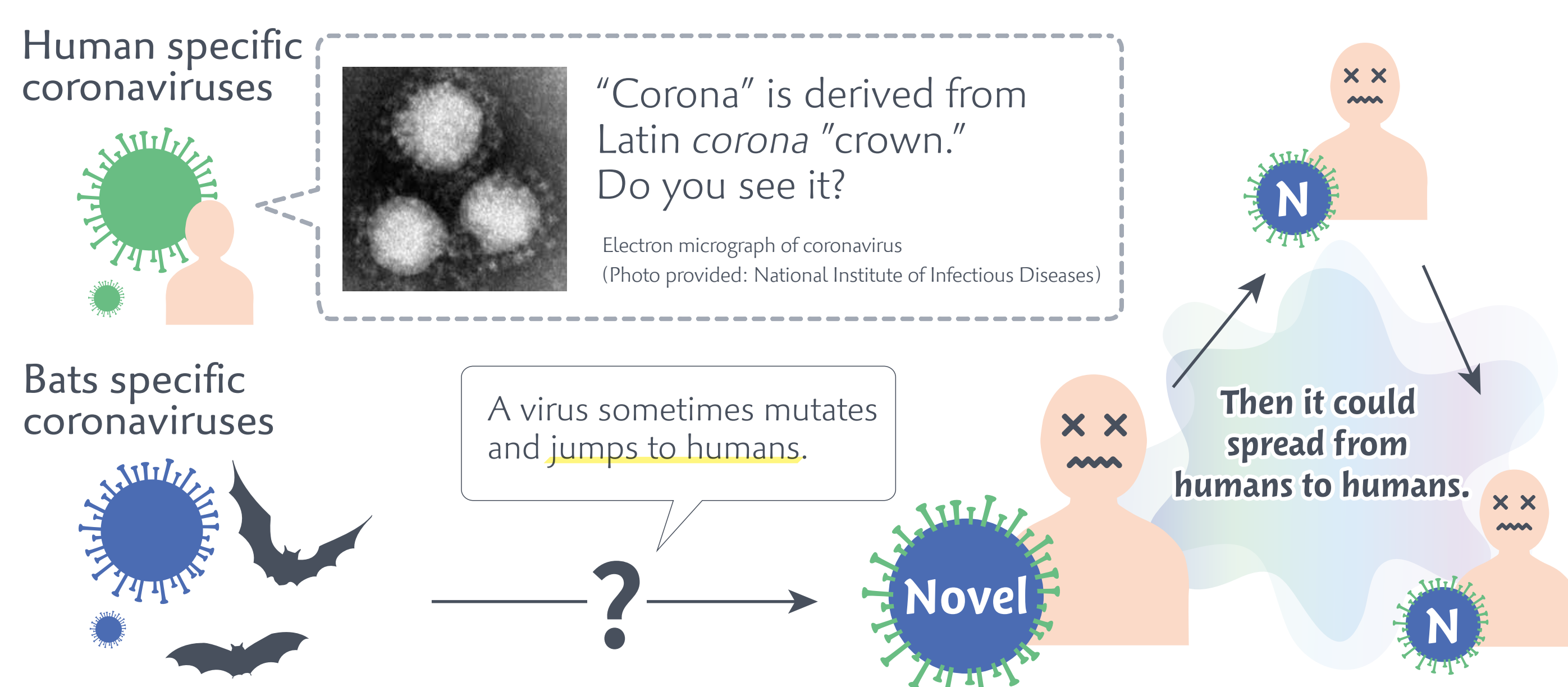
Why do we call it **Novel**?



What does **NOVEL** mean?

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses that can cause the common cold and/or disease. A novel coronavirus is a new coronavirus that was found in 2019. New types of viruses have been identified before; for example, we already know of two types of coronaviruses that cause the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

Are viruses coming from other animals?

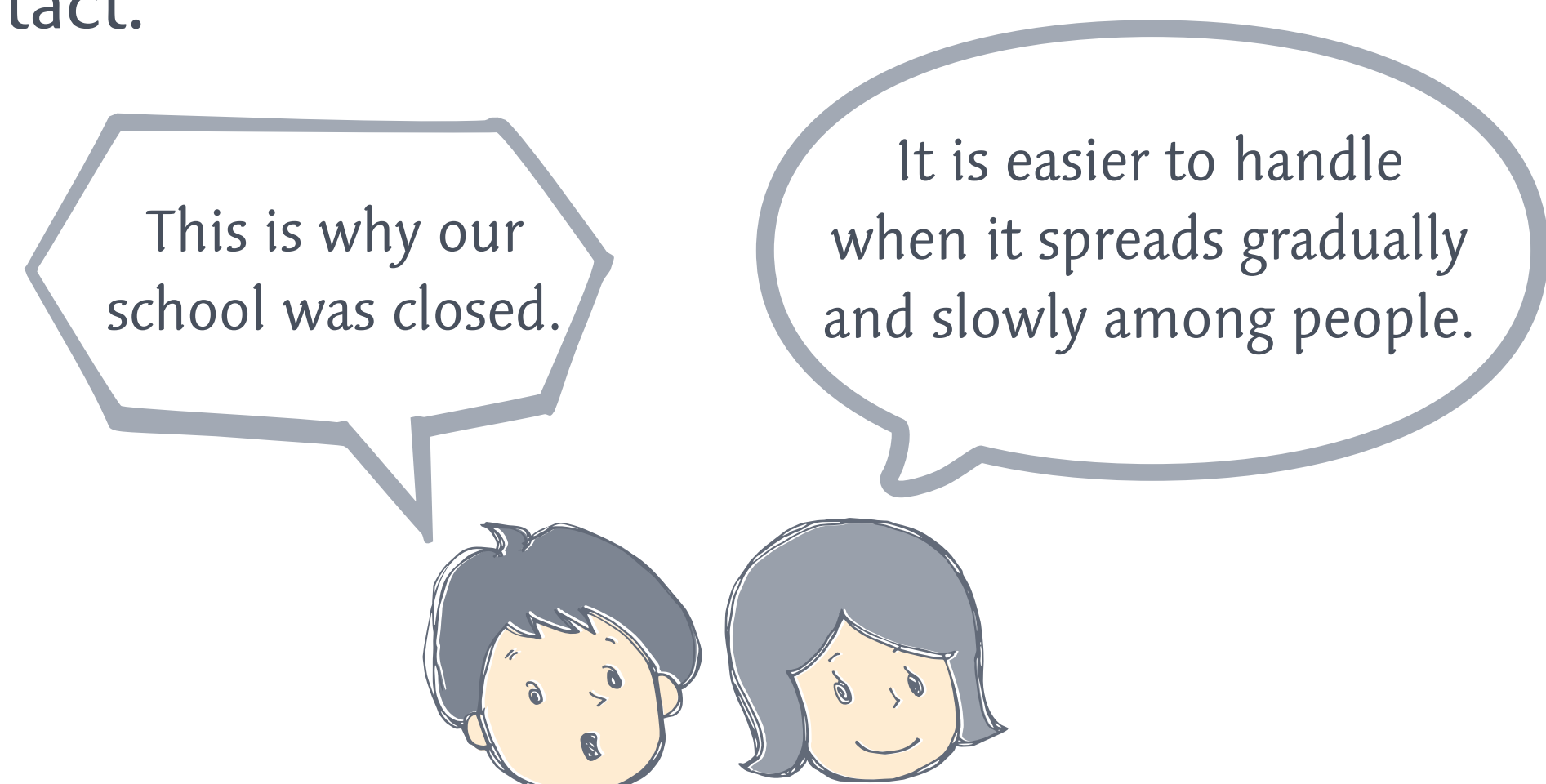


Today's novel coronavirus is believed to come from a Bat coronavirus. Viruses evolve rapidly, so it is possible that we may face other "novel" viruses in the future.

What makes this novel coronavirus **DANGEROUS**?

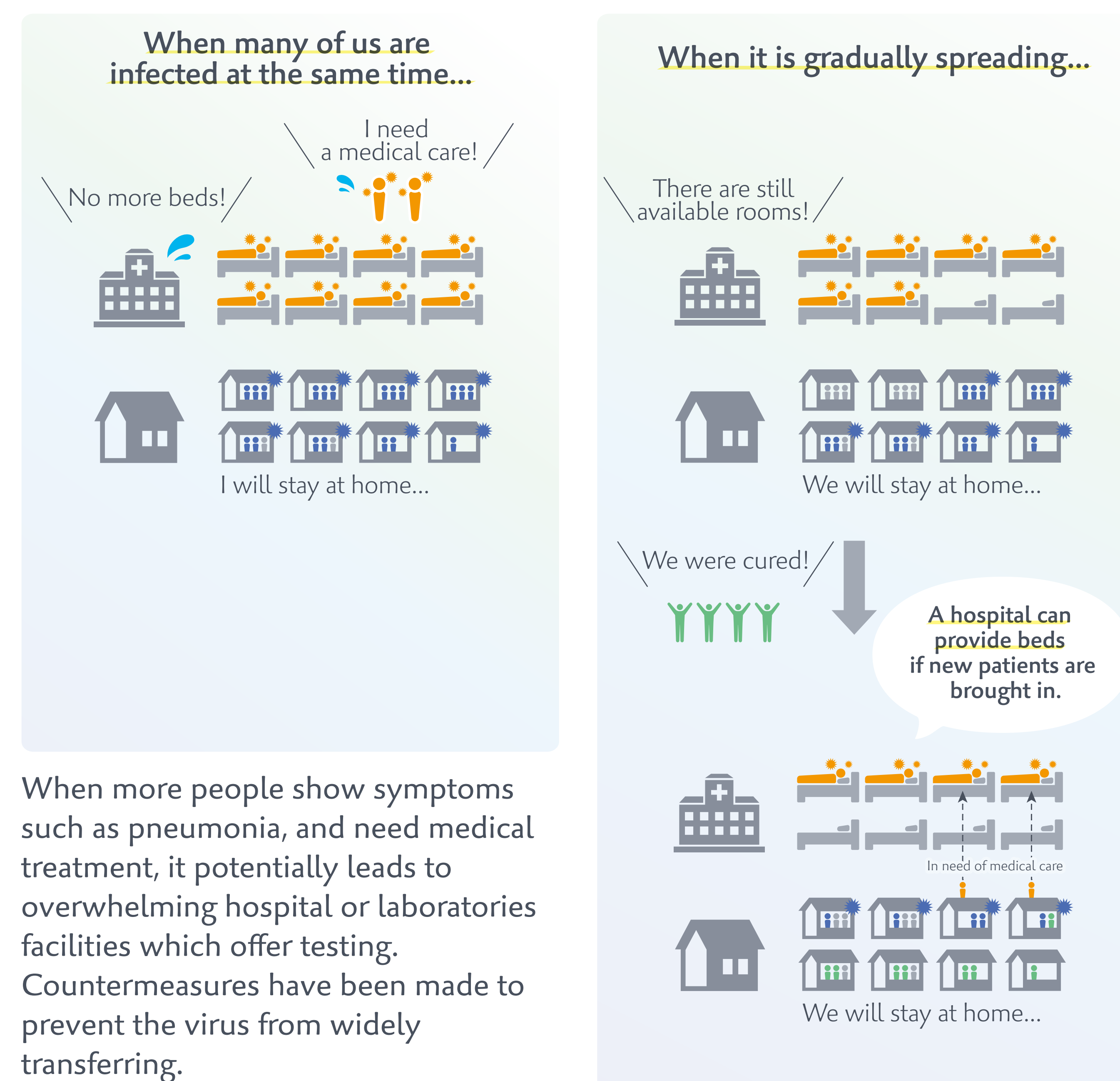
The major concern is the degree of infectivity and severity of the disease range even though certain viruses are in the same family. The scary part is that we have yet to fully understand the characteristics of this novel coronavirus and how to protect ourselves.

Plus, a novel virus, including the novel coronavirus can easily spread; and symptoms that are caused by a novel virus may become severe. In addition, it may take a longer time to recover. These impacts and difficulties come from the fact that our body has not prepared for that virus. When many of us are infected at the same time, it is a difficult time for our schools and companies. To avoid this problem, it is important to prevent the wide and rapid spread of the virus by limiting social contact.



It is a problem if the number of infected people suddenly increases.

Not infected Infected but not need treatment Treatment necessary Cured



When more people show symptoms such as pneumonia, and need medical treatment, it potentially leads to overwhelming hospital or laboratories facilities which offer testing. Countermeasures have been made to prevent the virus from widely transferring.

How can we deal with "novel viruses"?

There are a lot of unknown sources of disease on the Earth, including the ones which rapidly evolve and change their characteristics. Sources of disease easily move across the sea with humans or commercial products. It is no wonder, not if, but when the next "novel" infectious diseases emerge.

In recent years, Japan has experienced only a few novel infectious diseases, but it does not mean that we can always prevent an unknown disease. It is crucial to work on better measures based on previous experiences and lessons.