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The common cold virus is a member of the Picornaviridae group of viruses. It is a small, spherical virus with a diameter of approximately 30 nm. The virus is composed of a single strand of RNA surrounded by a protein coat. The protein coat is made up of several subunits, each of which is composed of a single polypeptide chain. The subunits are arranged in a helical pattern around the RNA strand.

The common cold virus is transmitted from person to person by direct contact with nasal secretions or by contact with contaminated objects. The virus enters the body through the nose and infects the nasal mucosa. The infection is usually self-limiting and resolves within a few days. However, in some cases, the virus can spread to other parts of the respiratory tract, such as the throat and lungs.

