

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)



What is novel coronavirus?

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a type of virus that has only spread in people since December 2019. Health experts are concerned because little is known about this new virus and it can cause severe illness and pneumonia in some people.

The term "novel" is used to describe a virus that enters a new species (animal or human) in whose population the virus does not normally circulate.

How does coronavirus spread?

Health experts are still learning the details about how this new coronavirus spreads. Other coronaviruses spread from an infected person to others through:

- The air by coughing and sneezing.
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands.
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.
- In rare cases, contact with feces.

How severe is novel coronavirus?

Experts are still learning about the range of illness from novel coronavirus. Reported cases have ranged from mild illness (similar to a common cold) to severe pneumonia that requires hospitalization. So far, deaths have been reported mainly in older adults who had other health conditions.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms that may appear in 2 to 14 days after exposure:

Fever



Cough



Difficulty breathing



*This information is based on [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) guidelines](#).
The information is subject to change as more information is learned about COVID-19.*

Who is at risk for novel coronavirus?

Travelers to and from certain areas of the world may be at increased risk. See wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel for the latest travel guidance from the CDC. The risk to the general public is low. To reduce the risk of spread, health officials are working with healthcare providers to quickly identify and evaluate any suspected cases.

How can I prevent getting novel coronavirus?

There are no additional precautions recommended for the general public. Steps you can take to prevent spread of coronavirus are the same as for the flu and the common cold:

- Wash hands often with soap and water. If not available, use hand sanitizer until you can wash hands.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home while you are sick and avoid close contact with others.
- Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing.



Currently, there are no vaccines available to prevent novel coronavirus infections.

How is novel coronavirus treated?

There are no medications specifically approved for coronavirus. Most people with mild coronavirus illness will recover on their own by drinking plenty of fluids, resting, and taking pain and fever medications. However, some cases develop pneumonia and require medical care or hospitalization.

What to do if I think I have coronavirus?

Be sure to call your doctor **BEFORE** you go into the clinic and/or emergency room. When you are traveling to a clinic and while you are in a clinic, please make sure to wear a mask. You and your doctor will have to discuss your risk for having coronavirus. Continue to monitor your health for any symptoms for the next two weeks.

For more information visit: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

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