

# What you need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

## Can people in the U.S. get COVID-19?

Yes. COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in parts of the United States. Risk of infection with COVID-19 is higher for people who are close contacts of someone known to have COVID-19, for example healthcare workers, or household members. Other people at higher risk for infection are those who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19. Learn more about places with ongoing spread at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html#geographic>.

## Have there been cases of COVID-19 in the U.S.?

Yes. The first case of COVID-19 in the United States was reported on January 21, 2020. The current count of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is available on CDC's webpage at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>.

## How does COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but is now spreading from person to person. The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Learn what is known about the spread of newly emerged coronaviruses at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>.

## What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath

## What are severe complications from this virus?

Some patients have pneumonia in both lungs, multi-organ failure and in some cases death.

## How can I help protect myself?

People can help protect themselves from respiratory illness with everyday preventive actions.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.

## If you are sick, to keep from spreading respiratory illness to others, you should

- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

## What should I do if I recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19?

If you have traveled from an affected area, there may be restrictions on your movements for up to 2 weeks. If you develop symptoms during that period (fever, cough, trouble breathing), seek medical advice. Call the office of your health care provider before you go, and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness. While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

## Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to take everyday preventive actions, like avoiding close contact with people who are sick and washing your hands often.

## Is there a treatment?

There is no specific antiviral treatment for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.



Know the facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) and help stop the spread of rumors.

**FACT**  
**1**

**Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity.**

People of Asian descent, including Chinese Americans, are not more likely to get COVID-19 than any other American. Help stop fear by letting people know that being of Asian descent does not increase the chance of getting or spreading COVID-19.

**FACT**  
**2**

**Some people are at increased risk of getting COVID-19.**

People who have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or people who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread are at an increased risk of exposure.

**FACT**  
**3**

**Someone who has completed quarantine or has been released from isolation does not pose a risk of infection to other people.**

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 web page.

**FACT**  
**4**

**You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms:**

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Seek medical advice if you

- Develop symptoms

AND

- Have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

**FACT**  
**5**

**There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



For more information: [www.cdc.gov/COVID19](https://www.cdc.gov/COVID19)

Novel Coronavirus Daily Temperature and Symptom Monitoring Worksheet

Date of departure: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of last exposure: \_\_\_\_\_ Last date of monitoring: \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions: Persons who are being monitored for symptoms of novel coronavirus must take their temperatures twice daily, once in the morning and once in the evening, and report any symptoms they are experiencing. For each day, document the morning and evening temperature and place an X in the box next to each symptom that the person is experiencing. If the person is experiencing a symptom that is not listed, it can be written into the row labeled as 'Other' for the corresponding date and time. If the person is not experiencing any symptoms, place an X in the box labeled "No symptoms". **If the person reports a fever or any of the symptoms listed, call your healthcare provider.**

Day:	Day 1		Day 2		Day 3		Day 4		Day 5		Day 6		Day 7	
Date:														
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
Time of check:														
Directly Observed (Y/N)														
Temperature & Symptoms														
Temperature	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F
Fever														
Cough														
Shortness of breath/Difficulty breathing														
Chest pain														
Other (specify)														
No symptoms														

Day:	Day 8		Day 9		Day 10		Day 11		Day 12		Day 13		Day 14	
Date:														
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
Time of check:														
Directly Observed (Y/N)														
<b>Temperature &amp; Symptoms</b>														
Temperature	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F	___°F
Fever														
Cough														
Shortness of breath/Difficulty breathing														
Chest pain														
Other (specify)														
No symptoms														