## Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

#### *Q.* What are coronaviruses?

**A.** Human coronaviruses were first identified in the mid-1960s. We are currently aware of seven different types of human coronaviruses, four of which are associated with mild to moderate upper-respiratory tract illnesses, like the common cold.

Other types of the virus include severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome, (MERS) and Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), which is

responsible for the latest outbreak. Although COVID-19 is similar to the other types of coronaviruses, it is unique in many ways and we are still learning more each day.

#### **Q.** How do you get infected with COVID-19?

**A.** COVID-19 is spread by close person-to-person contact from droplets from a cough or sneeze, which can get into your mouth, nose, or lungs. Close contact is defined as being within approximately 6 feet of another person. There aren't many cases in the U.S., so the risk of contracting COVID-19 is low.

#### **Q.** How do I know if I have COVID-19?

**A.** If you were recently exposed to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19, have been in a place where an outbreak has occurred within the last two weeks, or have the following symptoms that cannot be explained by another

### illness. The following symptoms could indicate you have contracted COVID-19:

- fever;
- cough; or
- shortness of breath.

Unless your symptoms are severe, it is recommend you call your healthcare provider first before entering

a healthcare facility. When speaking with a healthcare provider in-person or on the phone, be sure to note your symptoms, travel history, or if you

were exposed to a person diagnosed with the virus.

#### *Q.* How severe is this illness?

**A.** The World Health Organization says 80% of people with COVID-19 have a mild form of the illness with cold- or flu- like symptoms. The people most likely to get seriously ill from this virus are people over 60 and/or those with pre-existing health conditions. It is estimated that for every 100 cases of COVID-19, between two and four people would die. This is very different from a coronavirus like SARS, where nearly ten in 100 sick people died from the illness.

### **Q.** I see people wearing masks, should I be doing that?

**A.** Health officials in the U.S. do not recommend the use of masks among people not showing symptoms of COVID-19.



What can I do to prevent getting sick from COVID-19?

**A.** The following tips will help to prevent COVID-19 as well as other respiratory viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 15-20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol and rub your hands together until they are dry.
- Don't touch your eyes, nose, or mouth, especially with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are showing symptoms of illness.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Cover your cough or sneezes with a tissue or sneeze into your elbow. Throw the tissue in the garbage and make sure to clean your hands afterwards.
- Stay home when you are sick.





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# **SPREADS**

Through close personal contact with a sick person.



Symptoms may show up 2 - 14 days later

## **SYMPTOMS**

#### **Call your healthcare provider if:**

- You have symptoms and have been to a country that has experienced an outbreak within the last 2 weeks of your travel.
- You have symptoms and have been in close contact with a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19.
- You have a sudden and severe onset of symptoms that cannot be explained by another illness.

### FEVER





### PREVENTION

- Wash your hands often
- Cover your cough/sneeze with a tissue
- Don't touch your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Avoid close contact with sick people
- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces often
- Stay home when you are sick



