



2019 Novel Coronavirus

What is a coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

What is a novel coronavirus?

A novel coronavirus (CoV) is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans. A novel coronavirus was recently identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in late December 2019 (2019-nCoV). This novel coronavirus has since been identified outside of China, in a growing number of countries internationally, including the United States which had its first case confirmed on 1/20/20. Multiple cases have been confirmed in the U.S. since then and it is possible that more cases of 2019-nCoV will be identified in the future. For the most recent case information, visit the [CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus, Wuhan, China webpage](#).

Where can I find the most recent information about 2019-nCoV?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring the outbreak caused by the novel coronavirus first identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. For the latest information about 2019-nCoV, visit the [CDC 2019 Novel Coronavirus, Wuhan, China webpage](#).

How are coronaviruses spread?

Coronaviruses are zoonotic, meaning they are transmitted between animals and people. Detailed investigations found that SARS-CoV was transmitted from civet cats to humans and MERS-CoV from dromedary camels to humans. Most patients with 2019-nCoV have had links to a large seafood and live animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. However, a growing number of patients reportedly have not had exposure to animal markets, suggesting limited person-to-person spread is occurring.

Can coronaviruses be transmitted from person to person?

Yes, some coronaviruses can be transmitted from person to person, usually after close contact with an infected patient, for example, in a household, workplace, or health care setting.

What are the symptoms of coronavirus infection?

It depends on the virus, but common signs include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.

What should I do if I (or someone I know) traveled to China?

If you recently traveled to China or have been in close contact with someone who has confirmed novel coronavirus 2019 and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, you should:

- Seek medical care right away. **Before you go to the doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.**
- Avoid contact with others.
- Do not travel while sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

Is there a treatment for a novel coronavirus?

There is no specific treatment for disease caused by a novel coronavirus. However, many of the symptoms can be treated and treatment is based on the patient's clinical condition. Supportive care for infected persons can be highly effective.

What can I do to protect myself?

Good [hand washing practices](#) and [respiratory hygiene](#), [safe food practices](#), and avoiding close contact with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing are the best ways to prevent coronavirus infection.

Additional Resources

[Novel Coronavirus 2019](#) (CDC)

[Novel Coronavirus 2019-nCoV](#) (WHO)

For More Information



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