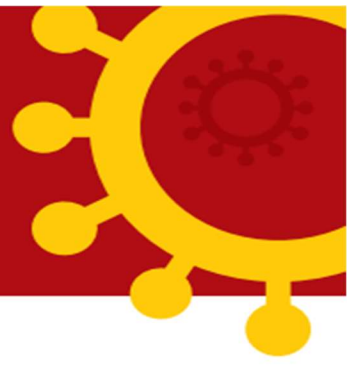


Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)



What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

COVID-19 is a new respiratory illness that has only spread in people since December 2019. Health experts are concerned because little is known about this new virus and it has the potential to cause severe illness and pneumonia in some people.

Who is at risk?

The immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low at this time for most Americans who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus. Health care workers caring for patients with confirmed cases of COVID-19 or close contacts of patients have an increased risk. People over the age 60 or people with pre-existing conditions such as diabetes and heart disease are at the most risk of becoming seriously ill.

How does COVID-19 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



touching a surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes



close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands

What are the symptoms?

People who have been diagnosed with COVID-19 have reported symptoms that may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus.



Fever



Cough



Difficulty breathing



Mild to severe illness

How can I prevent getting COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a new disease and we continue to learn more about how it is transmitted from person-to-person. The CDC risk assessment will be updated as new information becomes available. Steps you can take to prevent the spread of flu and the common cold will also help prevent coronavirus:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- 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 is no vaccine or specific treatment. We can only treat the symptoms.

What should I do if I think I (or a family member) might have COVID-19?

- Contact your [county health department](#) (CHD).
- Consult a health-care provider as soon as possible. Call ahead and tell them before you visit that you think you may have COVID-19 so they can take precautions to prevent exposing other people.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.
- If you have a surgical mask, wear it during close contact with other people. A mask can reduce the number of droplets coughed into the air.
- **Remember, very few respiratory infections will be COVID-19.**
- Please review your signs, symptoms and travel history thoroughly with your physician.

To learn more, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html> or <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters> or <http://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/COVID-19/faq.htm>

