



Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Fact Sheet



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

What is COVID-19?

The novel coronavirus causes a respiratory illness known as COVID-19. This illness can spread from person-to-person and was first identified in late 2019.

How do people become infected?

It is believed COVID-19 is spread through respiratory droplet transmission (coughs and sneezes of infected persons). Person-to-person spread is believed to occur most easily among people in close contact (about six feet or less) with each other. It is possible that a person may be able to be infected by touching a surface or object that has been contaminated by the virus, and then touching their own mouth, nose, or eyes.

What are the signs and symptoms?

It is believed that symptoms may appear between two and 14 days after exposure. Patients have reported mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms such as:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

If you have symptoms and have recently traveled to affected countries or, within the last 14 days, have been in close contact with someone who has been sick with COVID-19, call your healthcare provider.

How is it Diagnosed?

Diagnosis occurs through testing of upper respiratory specimens and blood serum.

Is there a treatment?

There is no specific treatment for COVID-19. People with mild COVID-19 will recover on their own by drinking plenty of fluids, resting, and taking pain and fever medications. However, some people may require medical care or hospitalization.

How do I prevent it?

The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus by practicing these basic measures:

- Wash your hands
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw it in the trash
- Clean surfaces with disinfectant, especially if those surfaces have been touched by someone who is sick

Who is at risk?

Anyone who is exposed to the virus can become infected. Older adults and those with pre-existing conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and/or lung disease are at increased risk for severe illness.