



Coronavirus FAQ

What is coronavirus?

Coronavirus is part of a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans. In humans, coronaviruses are known to cause respiratory infections, ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases like Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

The most recently discovered coronavirus causes coronavirus disease, officially known as COVID-19.

What are the symptoms of coronavirus?

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are fever, tiredness, and dry cough.

Some patients may have aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat, or diarrhea.

These symptoms are usually mild and begin gradually and develop anywhere from one to 14 days after catching the virus.

Some people don't develop any symptoms.

Who is most at risk from coronavirus?

About 80% of people recover from the disease without needing special treatment. About one out of six people who gets coronavirus becomes seriously ill and develops difficulty breathing.

Older people and those with high blood pressure, heart problems, or diabetes are more likely to develop serious illness. People with a fever, cough, and difficulty breathing should immediately seek medical attention.

How does coronavirus spread?

People catch coronavirus from other people who have the virus. It can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth which spread when a person with coronavirus coughs or exhales.

Therefore, it is important to stay more than three feet away from a person who is sick. Studies show that coronavirus is mainly transmitted through contact with these respiratory droplets

rather than through the air. The risk of catching the virus from someone with no symptoms is very low.

What can I do to protect myself and prevent the spread of coronavirus?

- Thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub often, especially after using the bathroom and before eating
- Maintain a distance of at least three feet from anyone who is coughing or sneezing
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- Make sure you, and the people around you, cover your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze, and throw the tissue away immediately
- Stay home if you don't feel well. If you have a fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, call your health care provider first before going in to see them
- Avoid traveling to "Coronavirus Hotspots", such as China, Japan, South Korea, Iran, and Italy. Stay up to date on these hotspots from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- Follow advice from your health care provider

How likely am I to catch coronavirus?

For most people in most places, the risk of catching coronavirus is low. However, there are now cities and areas around the world where the disease is spreading. Be sure to comply with any local restrictions on travel, as they will reduce or your risk

Is there a vaccine, drug, antibiotic, or treatment for coronavirus?

There currently is not a vaccine and no specific antiviral medicine to prevent or treat coronavirus. Antibiotics and traditional herbal remedies do not work against viruses. However, there is treatment to relieve symptoms, and most patients recover thanks to supportive care

Should I wear a face mask?

Only wear a face mask if you are ill with coronavirus, especially if you are coughing, or if you are taking care of someone who may have coronavirus. Disposable face masks can only be used once and wearing multiple face masks at once does not reduce your risk.

If you don't have coronavirus and are not in close contact with someone who may have it, the best way to protect yourself is to frequently wash your hands, cover your cough, and maintain a distance of at least three feet from people who are coughing or sneezing.

Can humans catch coronavirus from an animal?

Coronavirus is part of a large family of viruses that are common in animals. Occasionally, people get infected with these viruses, which may then spread to other people. To protect yourself, avoid direct contact with animals when visiting farms or live animal markets. Handle raw meat, milk, or animal organs with care, and avoid eating raw or undercooked animal products. There is no evidence that pets, such as cats and dogs, have been infected or could spread coronavirus.

How long does the virus survive on a surface?

Studies tell us that coronavirus may survive on a surface for a few hours up to several days, depending on temperature and humidity of the environment. If you think a surface may be infected, clean it with a simple disinfectant to kill the virus. It is safe to receive packages from a place where coronavirus has been reported.