

What is the Novel 2019-nCoV Coronavirus?

Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a new form of Coronavirus that causes acute infection with respiratory symptoms. This new virus is a different kind of Coronavirus than the ones that cause SARS or MERS. It is also different from the Coronavirus that causes seasonal infection in the U.S. The first cases of the 2019-nCoV Coronavirus were seen in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. As of early February 2020, the virus has spread within China and to a number of other countries, including the U.S.



The number of cases has been increasing quickly and is now considered an “outbreak” by the World Health Organization (WHO) and US Centers for Disease Control (CDC). For up to date information on this outbreak, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/index.html>

Symptoms of the Novel 2019-nCoV Coronavirus include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Prevention and control of Novel Coronavirus infection:

General principles—

- There is no vaccine available at this time to prevent Novel Coronavirus. Researchers are working to develop one.
- The key to prevention is to control the spread from person-to-person.
- People in the community can help control the spread by following basic infection control measures.
- Illness can range from mild to severe. Some people have died from their illness.
- People with advancing age or chronic conditions

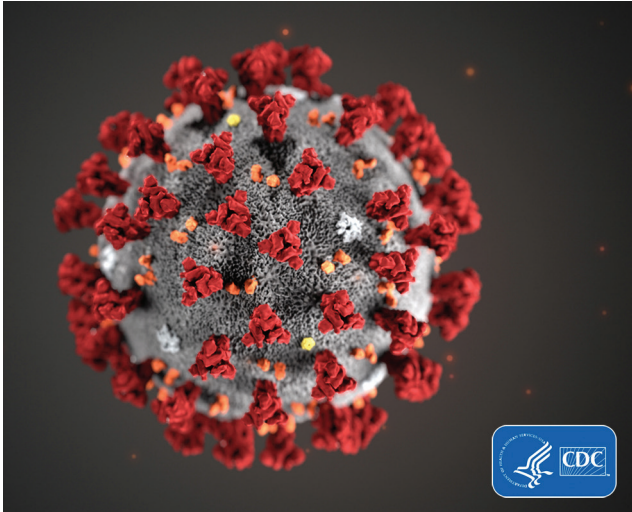
such as lung disease, heart disease, diabetes or immune problems are at a higher risk for severe illness. This is similar to the high risk groups for influenza.

What you can do—

As noted above, it is very important for people to follow basic infection control measures to help prevent Novel Coronavirus and/or other viruses, like influenza. This includes the following actions:



- Wash your hands for 20 seconds with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched items and surfaces.



- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home if you are sick.



- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue and discard the tissue after use.
- Avoid travel to areas affected heavily with the virus according to CDC recommendations.
- It may take up to 14 days to develop symptoms once exposed to this virus. If you have traveled to China or another area affected by this virus, you should stay home for at least 14 days.
- Stay informed and do not panic. Rely on evidence-based sources such as the CDC, WHO, or local public health departments.

Treatment—

- There is no specific treatment for Novel 2019-nCoV Coronavirus.
- People with this illness are treated based upon their symptoms and the severity of illness.
- Many people can recover at home, but those with more severe illness may need to receive care in the hospital.
- People who have or are likely to have this virus will need to wear a mask to help control the spread of virus to others.

Seek medical help—

- If you think you have been exposed to Novel Coronavirus and you have symptoms (fever or cough or shortness of breath), you should get medical attention right away.
- Some doctors' offices or emergency departments advise that you call before you arrive, if possible, so that they can be ready for your arrival and help you avoid spreading the virus to others.

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Resources

American Thoracic Society

- www.thoracic.org/patients

CDC

- www.cdc.gov/ncov
- CDC General Hotline: 1-800-232-4636

WHO

- <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

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