



Inspired by the Patients We Serve

What is COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and how does it spread?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person, mainly when they are in close contact with one another (less than 6 feet). When an infected person coughs or sneezes this spreads respiratory droplets that can then infect another person nearby. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Symptoms

- 100.4 fever or higher - 90% will have fever.
- Dry cough - 70% will have a dry cough.
- Shortness of breath

Who should be tested?

Not everyone needs to be tested for COVID-19. Here is some information that might help in making decisions about seeking care or testing.

- Most people have [mild illness](#) and are able to [recover at home](#).
- There is no treatment specifically approved for this virus.
- Testing results may be helpful to inform decision-making about who you come in contact with.

When to Seek Medical Attention

If you develop **emergency warning signs** for COVID-19 get **medical attention immediately**.
Emergency warning signs include*:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

*This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning

If You Are Sick or Caring for Someone



If you are sick with COVID-19 or suspect you are infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, you should take steps to help prevent the disease from spreading to people in your home and community.

If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19 and develop a fever and symptoms, such as cough or difficulty breathing, call your healthcare provider for medical advice.

Stay home except to get medical care

- **Stay home:** Most people with COVID-19 have mild illness and are able to recover at home without medical care. Do not leave your home, except to get medical care. Do not visit public areas.
- **Stay in touch with your doctor.** Call before you get medical care. Be sure to get care if you have trouble breathing, or have any other [emergency warning signs](#), or if you think it is an [emergency](#).
- **Avoid public transportation:** Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.

Separate yourself from other people in your home, this is known as home isolation

- **Stay away from others:** As much as possible, you stay away from others. You should stay in a specific “sick room” if possible, and away from other people in your home. Use a separate bathroom, if available.
 - See [COVID-19 and Animals](#) if you have questions about pets.

If someone in your home is sick



Call ahead before visiting your doctor

- **Call ahead:** Many medical visits for routine care are being postponed or done by phone or telemedicine.
- If you have a medical appointment that cannot be postponed, call your doctor’s office, and tell them you have or may have COVID-19. This will help the office protect themselves and other patients.

If you are sick wear a facemask in the following situations, if available.



- **If you are sick:** You should wear a facemask, if available, when you are around other people (including before you enter a healthcare provider's office).
- **If you are caring for others:** If the person who is sick is not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then as their caregiver, you should wear a facemask when in the same room with them. Visitors, other than caregivers, are not recommended.

Note: During a public health emergency, facemasks may be reserved for healthcare workers. You may need to improvise a facemask using a scarf or bandana.

Cover your coughs and sneezes



- **Cover:** Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- **Dispose:** Throw used tissues in a lined trash can.
- **Wash hands:** Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean your hands often



- **Wash hands:** Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. This is especially important after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- **Hand sanitizer:** If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry.
- **Soap and water:** Soap and water are the best option, especially if hands are visibly dirty.
- **Avoid touching:** Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

Avoid sharing personal household items



- **Do not share:** Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home.
- **Wash thoroughly after use:** After using these items, wash them thoroughly with soap and water or put in the dishwasher.

Clean all “high-touch” surfaces everyday



Clean high-touch surfaces in your isolation area (“sick room” and bathroom) every day; let a caregiver clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces in other areas of the home.

- **Clean and disinfect:** Routinely clean high-touch surfaces in your “sick room” and bathroom. Let someone else clean and disinfect surfaces in common areas, but not your bedroom and bathroom.
 - If a caregiver or other person needs to clean and disinfect a sick person’s bedroom or bathroom, they should do so on an as-needed basis. The caregiver/other person should wear a mask and wait as long as possible after the sick person has used the bathroom.

High-touch surfaces include phones, remote controls, counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables.

- **Clean and disinfect areas that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them.**
- **Household cleaners and disinfectants:** Clean the area or item with soap and water or another detergent if it is dirty. Then, use a household disinfectant.
 - Be sure to follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product. Many products recommend keeping the surface wet for several minutes to ensure germs are killed. Many also recommend precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.
 - Most EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective. A full list of disinfectants can be found [hereexternal icon](#).

Monitor your symptoms



- Common symptoms of COVID-19 include fever and cough. Trouble breathing is a more serious symptom that means you should get medical attention.
- **If you are having trouble breathing, seek medical attention, but call first.**
 - Call your doctor or emergency room before going in and tell them your symptoms. They will tell you what to do.
- **Wear a facemask:** If available, put on a facemask before you enter the building. If you can't put on a facemask, cover your coughs and sneezes. Try to stay at least 6 feet away from other people. This will help protect the people in the office or waiting room.
- **Follow care instructions from your healthcare provider and local health department:** Your local health authorities may give instructions on checking your symptoms and reporting information.

Emergency warning signs

If you develop **emergency warning signs** for COVID-19 get **medical attention IMMEDIATELY**.
Emergency warning signs include*:

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- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

*This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning.

Due to a limited number of COVID-19 testing supplies across the U.S. and consistent with other health care providers, only patients who are very ill and meet COVID-19 criteria are currently being tested.

Risk Assessment

Symptoms

Do you have a fever over 100.4°F or 38°C?

Yes No

Do you have a new cough?

Yes No

Do you have new shortness of breath?

Yes No

Health Conditions

Do you have any chronic diseases such as heart, or lung, or kidney disease or do you have diabetes?

Yes No

Do you have a weakened immune system from chronic disease, organ transplant, or other causes?

Yes No

Travel/Exposure

Have you been to any of the following international areas: Europe, Asia, or Iran?

Yes No

Have you recently returned from domestic travel within the last 14 days?

Yes No

Have you been exposed to someone who has tested positive for the Coronavirus, is suspected by a healthcare provider of having Coronavirus, or is awaiting results of their test?

Yes No

**To determine if you meet the criteria for COVID-19 testing,
please call: 314-833-2777**