

COVID-19 (Coronavirus): What To Know And Where To Go

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

What are the symptoms?

Current symptoms reported for patients with COVID-19 have included mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough and shortness of breath. Severe complications have included pneumonia (infection of the lungs). Symptoms usually appear 2–14 days after exposure.

I'm sick, or my child is sick. How do I know if it is COVID-19?

COVID-19 symptoms can be similar to other respiratory illnesses like the flu. If you have concerns, contact your primary health care provider or your child's pediatrician.

What should I do if I think I have COVID-19?

The first step is to call your primary health care provider for guidance on appropriate testing and care.

Can I request to be tested?

Not directly. Testing is at the discretion of the health care provider, following CDC guidelines and protocols. If you suspect you have symptoms of coronavirus, please call your provider as soon as possible.

How would I be tested for COVID-19?

If you present appropriate symptoms, your provider will work with state and local health departments and CDC to determine if you should be tested for COVID-19.

If I'm tested and the result is negative, could I still test positive for COVID-19 later?

Using a CDC-developed diagnostic test, a negative result means the virus that causes COVID-19 was not found. In the early stages of infection, it is possible the virus could not be detected. A negative test result while a person has symptoms likely means that the COVID-19 virus is not causing their current illness.

Am I at risk of getting COVID-19?

The situation continues to change every day. If you have a respiratory illness with a fever, cough or shortness of breath, and have recently traveled internationally or have had close contact with someone who traveled internationally and is now sick, please call your provider. We recommend you stay up to date with local and national public health alerts.

What if my child came in contact with a person who is sick?

If your child begins to show signs and symptoms of a respiratory illness after coming in contact with a person that is sick, you should reach out to your primary health care provider.

Should my child go to school or daycare if they are sick?

Children should stay home if they are sick.

If I have COVID-19, can it be treated?

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. People with COVID-19 can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.

How can I protect myself?

The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus. CDC recommends:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Only wear a facemask if a health care professional recommends it. People who have COVID-19 should use a facemask to protect others from risk of infection.