

# Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

## **What is 2019 Novel Coronavirus?**

2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a virus identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China.

## **What is a novel coronavirus?**

A novel coronavirus (CoV) is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified.

## **What are the symptoms?**

For confirmed 2019-nCoV infections, reported illnesses have ranged from infected people with little to no symptoms to people being severely ill and dying. Symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

## **How long does it take for symptoms to appear?**

At this time, it is believed that symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 after exposure.

## **How does the virus spread?**

This virus probably originally emerged from an animal source but now seems to be spreading from person-to-person. At this time, it's unclear how easily or sustainably this virus is spreading between people.

Chinese officials report that sustained person-to-person spread in the community is occurring in China. Person-to-person spread in the United States has not yet been detected, but it's likely to occur to some extent. Cases in healthcare settings, like hospitals, may also occur.

Human coronaviruses most commonly spread from an infected person to others through:

- Coughing and sneezing
- Close personal contact (e.g. touching, shaking hands)
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands
- Rarely, fecal contamination

## **Is there a vaccine?**

Currently, there is no vaccine available to protect against 2019-nCoV.

## **What are the treatments?**

There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for 2019-nCoV infection. People infected with 2019-nCoV should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms.

## How can I protect myself?

The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- 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.

It is recommended to avoid nonessential travel to Hubei Province, China, including Wuhan. If you must travel:

- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Avoid animals (alive or dead), animal markets, and products that come from animals (such as uncooked meat).
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Older adults and travelers with underlying health issues may be at risk for more severe disease and should discuss travel to Wuhan with their healthcare provider.

## How do you test a person for 2019-nCoV?

At this time, diagnostic testing for 2019-nCoV can be conducted only at the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention.

State and local health departments who have identified a [person under investigation \(PUI\)](#) should immediately notify CDC's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 770-488-7100 to report the PUI and determine whether testing for 2019-nCoV at CDC is indicated.

### Sources:

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Los Angeles County Department of Public Health](#)

[Wikipedia](#)

[CNN](#)