

COVID-19

What You Need to Know



What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a new coronavirus identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China in December 2019. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses common among animals and humans. They can cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe respiratory diseases.

What are the symptoms?

Patients diagnosed with COVID-19 have reportedly had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure.

How is it spread?

Health experts are still learning how easily this new virus spreads or how long an infected person is contagious. Other known coronaviruses spread from an infected person to others through:

- The air by coughing or sneezing
- Touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.

How is it treated?

There is no vaccine or specific treatment recommended for COVID-19. People diagnosed with COVID-19 can seek medical care to relieve symptoms.

How is it prevented?

Person-to-person spread in the United States has been detected. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus. Practice these good prevention strategies:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer if you don't have soap and water.
- Cover coughs.
- Stay away from others if sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.

Am I at risk for COVID-19?

Currently, the risk to the general public is low. The greatest risk of infection is for people in Wuhan or people who have traveled to Wuhan and other parts of China. There are a small number of individual cases in the United States. Health officials are working with providers to promptly identify and evaluate any individuals with suspected coronavirus illness.

What if I recently traveled to China and I am sick?

If you were in China in the past 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, you should get medical care. Call your health provider's office before you go and tell them about your travel and symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness.

Information as of 2/13/20

The latest information is available at [Washtenaw.org/health](https://www.washtenaw.org/health), [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.michigan.gov/Coronavirus) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/Coronavirus).