

# What is Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

COVID-19 is a new illness that can affect your lungs and airways. It's caused by a virus called coronavirus.

Symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are a cough, a high temperature and shortness of breath.

Simple measures like washing your hands often with soap and water can help stop viruses like coronavirus (COVID-19) spreading.

There's no specific treatment for coronavirus (COVID-19). Treatment aims to relieve the symptoms until you recover.

It's not known exactly how coronavirus (COVID-19) spreads from person to person, but similar viruses are spread in cough droplets.

## ***SYMPTOMS***

Fever, cough, and difficulty breathing are the most common symptoms. If you're experiencing symptoms, call your medical provider. The CDC urges those who may have been exposed to avoid public places and limit contact with other people.

## ***TESTING***

Not everyone needs to be tested for coronavirus, according to the CDC. Most people with mild symptoms can recover at home. Decisions about who should be tested are made by state and local health departments. Call your doctor for medical advice if you think you've been exposed to COVID-19 and develop symptoms.

## **PREVENTION**

The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed. COVID-19 spreads from person to person, and can be spread by those who are infected but don't display symptoms. The CDC advises [washing hands](#), [avoiding close contact with others](#), and [cleaning and disinfecting surfaces](#). Older adults and those with underlying chronic medical conditions should take extra precautions.

The CDC recommends the use of non-medical, cloth-based face coverings in some public settings. Surgical masks should be reserved for healthcare workers.

## **TREATMENT**

There is no cure for COVID-19 at this time. Health officials say some specific drugs are in development for treatment, but more research is needed. The World Health Organization debunks rumors about false treatments on its [Myth Busters](#) page.

Most people infected with the coronavirus will experience mild respiratory symptoms and can recover at home, but those with underlying conditions may need more supportive care. If you suspect you've been infected, contact your medical provider.

## **TRAVEL**

COVID-19 has limited where and when you can travel. In the US, the State Department has advised citizens to [avoid international travel](#) until further notice.

## **HOW CAN YOU HELP**

To stop the spread of coronavirus, health and government officials recommend avoiding large gatherings and maintaining a distance of 6 feet from other people. This reduces the chance of contact with those knowingly or unknowingly carrying the infection.

Communities all over are coping with challenges such as lost wages, school closures, and access to healthcare. On a larger scale, International aid organizations like UNICEF are working with partners to help halt the virus.