

novel coronavirus (COVID-19) FAQs

what is the new coronavirus?

At the end of 2019, a new type of coronavirus began making people sick with flu-like symptoms. The illness is called coronavirus disease-19 — COVID-19, for short. The virus spreads easily and has affected people all over the world.

what are the signs & symptoms of the new coronavirus?

COVID-19 can cause a fever, cough, and trouble breathing. Some people might have:

- symptoms of a cold such as a sore throat, congestion, or a runny nose
- chills
- headache
- a loss of taste or smell
- nausea or vomiting
- diarrhea
- tiredness
- muscle pain

The virus can be more serious in some people. And some people have no symptoms at all.

Some kids are having symptoms caused by inflammation throughout the body, sometimes several weeks after they were infected with the virus. This is called multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C). Doctors are trying to find out how these symptoms are related to coronavirus infection.

Symptoms seen in kids have included:

- fever
- belly pain
- vomiting or diarrhea
- a rash
- neck pain
- red eyes
- red, cracked lips
- swollen hands or feet

how does coronavirus spread?

People can catch COVID-19 from others who have the virus even if they don't have any symptoms. This happens when an infected person breathes, talks, sneezes, or coughs, sending tiny droplets into the air. These can land in the nose, mouth, or eyes of someone nearby, or be breathed in. The risk is highest when people are closer than 6 feet away.

People also might get infected if they touch an infected droplet on a surface and then touch their own nose, mouth, or eyes.

Experts are looking at how the virus spreads and stays in the air, and whether it can spread through stool (poop).

can someone who's infected spread coronavirus (COVID-19) if they don't have symptoms?

The virus spreads most easily when an infected person has symptoms. But it also can spread before symptoms start. It can take 2–14 days after someone is exposed to the virus for symptoms to show up.

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is coronavirus (COVID-19) dangerous to children?

Experts are still learning about COVID-19. Far fewer cases have been reported in children. Usually, the virus seems to cause a milder infection in children than in adults or older people.

But in some cases of the inflammatory syndrome called MIS-C, kids developed more serious symptoms, sometimes several weeks after being infected with the virus. Most kids with MIS-C get better after they get special care in the hospital, sometimes in the ICU (intensive care unit).

Call your doctor if your child has symptoms of COVID-19 or MIS-C, or just isn't feeling well. Tell the doctor if your child has been near someone with COVID-19, or lived in or traveled to an area where lots of people have the coronavirus.

Get care right away if your child:

- has trouble breathing
- has severe belly pain
- has pain or pressure in the chest
- is confused or not making sense
- is having trouble staying awake
- looks bluish in the lips or face

These symptoms can be warning signs of serious illness.

who should wear a face mask?

Everyone over the age of 2 should wear a face mask when it is not possible to maintain social distance (keeping at least 6 feet between yourself and others). For example, going to the grocery store, pharmacy, etc. Please use a home-made mask in these instances. The CDC has a tutorial online for making your own facemask, called "How to Make Your Own Face Covering." N95 and surgical masks should be reserved for health care providers.

These groups should also wear a mask:

- People who are coughing or sneezing, have coronavirus, or have been tested for coronavirus
- Caregivers of people who have or may have coronavirus

Help your kids get used to masks. You can make them together. Practice wearing them so kids feel more comfortable when they wear them or see loved ones wearing them. Children under 2 years old should not wear a mask.

what should I do my child or a family member has symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Call your doctor if they have a fever, cough, sore throat, belly pain, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, dizziness, or just doesn't feel well. If they have been near someone with coronavirus or lived in or traveled to an area where lots of people have coronavirus, tell the doctor. The doctor can decide whether they:

- can be treated at home
- should come in for a visit
- can have a video or telehealth visit

In a telehealth visit, a health care provider can see you on video while you stay at home. If your child isn't feeling well and you can, choose a telehealth provider who specializes in caring for kids. If the doctor thinks you/your child/your family member needs care right away, they will guide you on where to go. When possible, check for telehealth in your area before anyone in your family is sick.

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how do doctors test people for coronavirus (COVID-19)?

There are two types of tests for coronavirus:

- This can tell whether someone is infected with coronavirus at the time of the test. To do this test, health care providers use a long swab (like a Q-Tip) to take a sample from the nose or throat. They can also test a sample of saliva (spit). Some areas offer drive-thru testing, which lets people stay in their car during the test. At some testing sites, people can swab themselves following directions from the health care team. There also are special kits that families can order to do the test at home.
- This blood test for antibodies can tell if someone was infected with coronavirus more than 2–3 weeks before the test. It can't tell if they're infected at the time of the test, which is why this test can't be used to diagnose COVID-19.

how can we protect ourselves from coronavirus?

To protect yourself and your family:

- Avoid large crowds and busy places.
- Stay at least 6 feet from people you don't live with. COVID-19 can spread before a person has symptoms and even when someone has no symptoms.
- When you go out, adults and kids over 2 years old should wear a mask or cloth face covering to help slow the spread of the virus. To see how to put on and remove masks, clean them, or make your own cloth mask, check the CDC's guide.
- Wash your hands well and often. Wash for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Teach your kids to do the same.
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Use a household cleaner or wipe to clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that people touch a lot.
- Keep informed about the spread of coronavirus in your community. You can find this on your local department of health website.
- Follow recommendations from your local health authority, especially if there are a lot of people with coronavirus in your area.
- Make sure your children have all their vaccinations. Protect them against illnesses like measles and the flu. Kids who have another infection may have a harder time getting better if they do get COVID-19.

can kids go to school during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic?

Health experts, school officials, and teachers are all working hard to decide whether to reopen school buildings for in-person learning. To help prevent the spread of coronavirus, schools may limit class sizes, stagger schedules, or offer online learning. Some schools may offer a mix of online and in-person learning. Those schools that have in-person learning may require kids and teachers to wear masks, maintain social distancing, and take other precautions.

You can find more information on how to return to school safely on the CDC's website.

how is coronavirus treated?

Doctors and researchers are working on medicines and a vaccine for coronavirus. Most people with the illness, including children, get better with rest, fluids and fever-reducing medicine. Some people get very ill and need treatment in the hospital.

Antibiotics can't treat viruses so they won't help with coronavirus. Medicines for the flu don't work either because coronavirus is different from the flu virus

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should we cancel our travel plans due to coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Recommendations for travel change often. Check the CDC's website for the latest updates. Talk to your doctor, and consider where you live, where you're traveling to, and any medical conditions people in your family have.

can someone get coronavirus (COVID-19) from mail or a package?

The risk of getting infected from mail or a package is very low. But it's a good idea to:

- Wash your hands after handling mail.
- Open and discard/recycle packages outside, then wash your hands right away when you go back into the house.

can pets get coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Some animals have tested positive for coronavirus. People who are sick shouldn't have contact with their pets. If someone must care for a pet while sick, they should wash their hands before and after contact and wear a face mask. If your pet is sick, call your vet for advice on what to do.

what is the future of coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Experts aren't sure what will happen. Some things that may influence what happens with coronavirus include:

- How effective areas are at controlling its spread
- How long it takes to develop medicines to treat coronavirus
- How long it takes to develop a COVID-19 vaccine

where can I learn more and get updated information about coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), Greater Dayton Area Hospital Association (GDAHA), and World Health Organization (WHO).



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