



What you need to know about the new coronavirus

As the international coronavirus outbreak rapidly evolves, the **CVS Health Enterprise Response and Resiliency** and **Infectious Disease Response** teams continue to monitor the situation as well as guidance from trusted sources of clinical information such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO). For the latest information, please visit the [CDC](#) and/or [WHO websites](#) dedicated to this issue.

What is this new Coronavirus?

The CDC and WHO are actively monitoring the [outbreak of a new coronavirus strain called the "2019 novel coronavirus" or "2019-nCoV"](#) causing respiratory illness. The virus, which has infected thousands of people [worldwide](#) and caused some deaths, originated in Wuhan City, China. Additional cases have now been reported in the [United States](#). Visit the [CDC Traveler's Health website](#) for travel notices and precautions.

Although the new coronavirus is being compared to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-coronavirus ([SARS-CoV](#)), the symptoms of this new virus appear to be milder.

Human coronaviruses may cause mild to moderate illness in people. Some human coronaviruses have been known to cause more severe illness. Common signs of infection include respiratory symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure, and even death.

Human coronaviruses are usually spread from an infected person to others through the air by coughing and sneezing; close personal contact (such as shaking hands); and touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands.

How to protect yourself and others

Although there are currently no vaccines available to protect against human coronavirus infection, you may be able to reduce your risk of infection by washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds; avoiding touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands; and avoiding close contact with people who are sick.

For information about hand washing, see the CDC's [Clean Hands Save Lives](#) website.

If you have cold-like symptoms, you can help protect others by staying home while you are sick; avoiding close contact with other people; covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze (then throwing the tissue in the trash and washing your hands); and cleaning and disinfecting objects and surfaces.

If you suspect that a loved one or you have contracted the coronavirus

Most people with common human coronavirus illness will recover on their own. Although there are no specific treatments for illnesses caused by human coronaviruses, you can take the following actions to relieve symptoms if you are mildly sick:

- Take pain and fever medications. Ask your pharmacist how they may interact with any medications you currently take. (Caution: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommend not giving aspirin to children.)
- Use a room humidifier or take a hot shower to help ease a sore throat and cough.
- Drink plenty of liquids.
- Stay home and rest.

If you are concerned about your symptoms, please see your local healthcare provider.

You can find more information on the new coronavirus at these links:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/steps-when-sick.html>

