

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions

What does COVID-19 even mean?

There are seven known kinds of coronaviruses. Four of them cause the common cold. You may have seen COVID-19 called "novel coronavirus" because this is a new strain of the virus that was first seen in 2019.



What would I feel if I had COVID-19?



Fever and cough are the most common symptoms, like having a cold. If you feel stronger symptoms like difficulty breathing or chest pain, you should call a doctor. People with chronic health conditions and the elderly are at higher risk for developing severe symptoms.

How does COVID-19 compare to the flu?

The symptoms and how it is spread are very similar. The flu may be prevented through vaccines. Since COVID-19 is so new there is no vaccine yet, and people have not built up immunity. For most people, the symptoms may be milder than those of the flu.



What do I do if I think I came into contact with someone who has COVID-19?



Monitor your symptoms. If you start having symptoms, call your health care provider right away. Be sure to call ahead before visiting any doctor and tell them you may have COVID-19 so they may prepare accordingly.

How do I keep from getting COVID-19?



Wash your hands!



Cover your cough.



Sneeze into a tissue and throw the tissue away.



Clean and disinfect commonly used areas more frequently.



Most importantly, stay home if you are sick! It doesn't matter if it's COVID-19, the flu or a cold, sharing is not caring in this case!

All the hand sanitizer in my city is sold out - now what?!



Wash. Your. Hands. Don't skip on the handwashing. Twenty seconds is the minimum, so sing "Happy Birthday" twice and you are done!

Why are people being discouraged from gathering?

Staying at home if you are sick is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of illness. This will help stop early transmission and keep you and your community safer.



Do I Need to Be Tested for COVID-19?

Some things to think about before seeking testing

Not everyone needs to be tested for COVID-19. Most people have mild illness and are able to recover at home. Currently, there is no treatment specifically approved for this virus.



Testing results may be helpful to inform decision making about who you came in contact with. The CDC has guidance about who should be tested, but decisions about testing are up to the state and local health departments and/or your provider.

If you have a fever and a cough or shortness of breath, you may need to contact your primary care provider, urgent care center or Federally Qualified Health Centers for testing.



Check out this CDC tool to see if you might need testing : www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/testing.html

I heard there are priority groups for testing, who are they?



Hospitalized patients who have signs and symptoms compatible with COVID-19.

Other symptomatic individuals such as, older adults and individuals with chronic medical conditions (e.g., diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, kidney disease, among others).



Anyone, including healthcare personnel, who within 14 days of symptoms appearing, had close contact with a suspect or laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 patient, or who has a history of travel from affected areas.

Providers should use their judgment to determine if a patient shows signs of COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested. Most patients with confirmed COVID-19 have developed fever and/or symptoms of acute respiratory illness (e.g., cough, difficulty breathing).

