

# Covid-19 Frequently Asked Questions

## **What are Coronaviruses?**

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases, such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

## **What is the Covid-19?**

The Covid-19 is a new coronavirus (i.e. not previously identified) first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China.

## **What is the source of Covid-19?**

Public health officials are working hard to identify the source of the Covid-19. Early on, many of the patients in the outbreak in Wuhan, China reportedly had some link to a large seafood and animal market, suggesting the virus likely emerged from an animal source.

## **What are the symptoms and complications that Covid-19 can cause?**

Current symptoms reported for patients with Covid-19 have included mild to severe respiratory illness with fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure, and even death.

## **How does the virus spread?**

This virus probably originally emerged from an animal source, but now seems to be spreading from person-to-person usually after close contact with an infected patient, for example, in a household workplace, or health care center.

## **Is there a vaccine for a novel coronavirus?**

As the novel coronavirus is a new virus, there is no vaccine available yet until one is developed.

## **Is there a treatment for a novel coronavirus?**

There is no specific treatment for disease caused by a novel coronavirus. However, many of the symptoms can be treated, and therefore, treatment is based on the patient's clinical condition. Moreover, supportive care for infected persons can be highly effective.

## **What can I do to protect myself?**

Standard recommendations to reduce exposure to and transmission include maintaining basic hand and respiratory hygiene, safe food practices, and avoiding close contact—when possible—with anyone showing symptoms of respiratory illness such as coughing and sneezing.

## **What should I do if I had close contact with someone who has Covid-19?**

If you have had close contact with someone who is confirmed to have, or is being evaluated for, Covid-19 infection, you should:

Monitor your health starting from the day you first had close contact with the person and continue for 14 days after you last had close contact with the person. Watch for these signs and symptoms:

- a) Fever—take your temperature twice a day
- b) Coughing
- c) Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

If you develop fever or any of these symptoms, call your healthcare provider right away.

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Before going to your medical appointment, be sure to tell your healthcare provider about your close contact with someone who is confirmed to have, or is being evaluated for, Covid-19 infection. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected. Ask your healthcare provider to call the local or state health department.

If you do not have any symptoms, you can continue with your daily activities, such as going to work, school, or other public areas.

### **What is a close contact?**

A close contact is defined as:

Being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters), or within the room or care area of a novel coronavirus case for a prolonged period of time while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment or PPE (e.g., gowns, gloves, NIOSH-certified disposable N95 respirator, eye protection); close contact can include caring for, living with, visiting, or sharing a health care waiting area or room with a novel coronavirus case.

– or –

Having direct contact with infectious secretions of a novel coronavirus case (e.g., being coughed on) while not wearing recommended personal protective equipment.

### **What if I recently traveled to a coronavirus high-risk location/country and got sick?**

If you were in a coronavirus high-risk location/country and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing within 14 days after you left, you should:

- Seek medical care right away. Before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms
- Avoid contact with others
- Not travel while sick
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds to avoid spreading the virus to others. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available

### **Can I be tested for Covid-19?**

At this time, diagnostic testing for Covid-19 can be conducted only at very few and specific medical centers.