

# Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

## Situation Summary

**This is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation and CDC will provide updated information as it becomes available, in addition to updated guidance.**

Updated March 3, 2020

### Background

CDC is responding to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel (new) coronavirus that was first detected in China and which has now been detected in almost 70 locations internationally, including in the United States. The virus has been named “SARS-CoV-2” and the disease it causes has been named “coronavirus disease 2019” (abbreviated “COVID-19”).

On January 30, 2020, the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee of the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a “[public health emergency of international concern](#)[external icon](#)” (PHEIC). On January 31, 2020, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar II declared a public health emergency (PHE) for the United States to aid the nation’s healthcare community in responding to COVID-19.

### Source and Spread of the Virus

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people such as with [MERS-CoV](#), [SARS-CoV](#), and now with this new virus (named SARS-CoV-2).

The SARS-CoV-2 virus is a betacoronavirus, like MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV. All three of these viruses have their origins in bats. The sequences from U.S. patients are similar to the one that China initially posted, suggesting a likely single, recent emergence of this virus from an animal reservoir.

Early on, many of the patients at the epicenter of the outbreak in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China had some link to a large seafood and live animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. Later, a growing number of patients reportedly did not have exposure to animal markets, indicating person-to-person spread. Person-to-person spread was subsequently reported outside Hubei and in countries outside China, including in the [United States](#). Some international [destinations now have apparent community spread](#) with the virus that causes COVID-19, including in some parts of the United States. Community spread means some people have been infected and it is not known how or where they became exposed. Learn what is known about the [spread of this newly emerged coronaviruses](#).

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Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Global Map

[View larger image and see a list of locations map icon](#)

[COVID-19 cases in the U.S.](#)

## Situation in U.S.

- Imported cases of COVID-19 in travelers have been detected in the U.S.
- Person-to-person spread of COVID-19 was first reported among close contacts of returned travelers from Wuhan.
- During the week of February 23, CDC reported community spread of the virus that causes COVID-19 in California (in two places), Oregon and Washington. Community spread in Washington resulted in the first death in the United States from COVID-19, as well as the first reported case of COVID-19 in a health care worker, and the first potential outbreak in a long-term care facility.

## Illness Severity

Both MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV have been known to cause severe illness in people. The complete clinical picture with regard to COVID-19 is not fully understood. Reported illnesses have ranged from mild to severe, including illness resulting in death. While information so far suggests that most COVID-19 illness is mild, [a report](#) external icon out of China suggests serious illness occurs in 16% of cases. Older people and people with certain underlying health conditions like heart disease, lung disease and diabetes, for example, seem to be at greater risk of serious illness.

Learn more about the [symptoms associated with COVID-19](#).

There are ongoing investigations to learn more. This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available.

## Risk Assessment

Outbreaks of novel virus infections among people are always of public health concern. The risk from these outbreaks depends on characteristics of the virus, including how well it spreads between people, the severity of resulting illness, and the medical or other measures available to control the impact of the virus (for example, vaccine or treatment medications). The fact that this disease has caused illness, including illness resulting in death, and sustained person-to-person spread is concerning. These factors meet two of the criteria of a pandemic. As community spread is detected in more and more countries, the world moves closer toward meeting the third criteria, worldwide spread of the new virus.

Reported community spread of COVID-19 in parts of the United States raises the level of concern about the immediate threat for COVID-19 for those communities. The potential public health threat posed by COVID-19 is very high, to the United States and globally.

At this time, however, most people in the United States will have little immediate risk of exposure to this virus. This virus is NOT currently spreading widely in the United States. However, it is important to note that current global circumstances suggest it is likely that this virus will cause a pandemic. This is a rapidly evolving situation and the risk assessment will be updated as needed.

Current risk assessment:

- For most of the American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus at this time, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low.
- People in communities where ongoing community spread with the virus that causes COVID-19 has been reported are at elevated, though still relatively low risk of exposure.
- Healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Close contacts of persons with COVID-19 also are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Travelers returning from affected [international locations](#) where community spread is occurring also are at elevated risk of exposure.

CDC has developed [guidance to help in the risk assessment and management](#) of people with potential exposures to COVID-19.

## What May Happen

More cases of COVID-19 are likely to be identified in the coming days, including more cases in the United States. It's also likely that person-to-person spread will continue to occur, including in communities in the United States. It's likely that at some point, widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the United States will occur.

Widespread transmission of COVID-19 would translate into large numbers of people needing medical care at the same time. Schools, childcare centers, workplaces, and other places for mass gatherings may experience more absenteeism. Public health and healthcare systems may become overloaded, with elevated

rates of hospitalizations and deaths. Other critical infrastructure, such as law enforcement, emergency medical services, and transportation industry may also be affected. Health care providers and hospitals may be overwhelmed. At this time, there is no vaccine to protect against COVID-19 and no medications approved to treat it. [Nonpharmaceutical interventions](#) would be the most important response strategy.

## CDC Response

Global efforts at this time are focused concurrently on containing the spread and mitigating the impact of this virus. The federal government is working closely with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners, as well as public health partners, to respond to this public health threat. The public health response is multi-layered, with the goal of detecting and minimizing introductions of this virus in the United States. CDC is operationalizing all of its pandemic preparedness and response plans, working on multiple fronts to meet these goals, including specific measures to [prepare communities](#) to respond to local transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19. There is an abundance of [pandemic guidance](#) developed in anticipation of an influenza pandemic that is being repurposed and adapted for a COVID-19 pandemic.

## Highlights of CDC's Response

- CDC established a COVID-19 Incident Management System on January 7, 2020. On January 21, CDC activated its Emergency Operations Center to better provide ongoing support to the COVID-19 response.
- The U.S. government has taken unprecedented steps with respect to **travel** in response to the growing public health threat posed by this new coronavirus:
  - Effective February 2, at 5pm, the U.S. government suspended entry of foreign nationals who have been in China within the past 14 days.
    - U.S. citizens, residents, and their immediate family members who have been in Hubei province and other parts of mainland China are allowed to enter the United States, but they are subject to health monitoring and possible quarantine for up to 14 days.
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  - On February 29, the U.S. government announced it was suspending entry of foreign nationals who have been in Iran within the past 14 days.
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  - CDC has issued the following travel guidance related to COVID-19:
    - [China — Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel](#) — updated February 22;
    - [Hong Kong — Level 1, Practice Usual Precautions](#) — issued February 19;
    - [Iran — Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel](#) — updated February 28;
    - [Italy — Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel](#) — updated February 28;
    - [Japan — Level 2, Practice Enhanced Precautions](#) — updated February 22;
    - [South Korea — Level 3, Avoid Nonessential Travel](#) — updated February 24.
  - CDC also recommends that [all travelers reconsider cruise ship voyages into or within Asia](#) at this time.
- CDC is issuing [clinical guidance](#), including:
  - On January 30, CDC published [guidance for healthcare professionals on the clinical care of COVID-19 patients](#).
  - On February 3, CDC posted [guidance for assessing the potential risk for various exposures](#) to COVID-19 and managing those people appropriately.
  - On February 27, CDC updated its [criteria to guide evaluation of persons under investigation for COVID-19](#).
  - On February 28, CDC issued a Health Alert Network (HAN): [Update and Interim Guidance on Outbreak of COVID-19](#).
- CDC has deployed multidisciplinary teams to support state health departments case identification, contact tracing, clinical management, and communications.
- CDC has worked with the Department of State, supporting the safe return of Americans who have been stranded as a result of the ongoing outbreaks of COVID-19 and related travel restrictions. CDC has worked to assess the health of passengers as they return to the United States and provided continued daily monitoring of people who are quarantined.

This is a picture of CDC's laboratory test kit for severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). CDC is shipping the test kits to laboratories CDC has designated as qualified, including U.S. state and local public health laboratories, Department of Defense (DOD) laboratories and select international laboratories. The test kits are bolstering global laboratory capacity for detecting SARS-CoV-2.

[resize icon](#)[View Larger](#)

- An important part of CDC's role during a public health emergency is to develop a test for the pathogen and equip state and local public health labs with testing capacity.
  - After distribution of a CDC rRT-PCR test to diagnose COVID-19 to state and local public health labs started, performance issues were identified related to a problem in the manufacturing of one of the reagents. Laboratories were not able to verify the test performance.
  - CDC worked on two potential resolutions to this problem.
    - CDC developed a new protocol that uses two of the three components of the original CDC test kit to detect the virus that causes COVID-19 after establishing that the third component, which was the problem with the original test, can be excluded from testing without affecting accuracy. CDC is working with FDA to amend the existing Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the test, but in the meantime, FDA granted discretionary authority for the use of the original test kits.
      - Public health laboratories can use the original CDC test kit to test for the virus that causes COVID-19 using the new protocol.
    - Further, newly manufactured kits have been provided to the [International Reagent Resource](#)[external icon](#) for distribution.
  - Combined with other reagents that CDC has procured, there are enough testing kits to test more than 75,000 people.
  - In addition, CDC has two laboratories conducting testing for the virus that causes COVID-19. CDC can test approximately 350 specimens per day.
  - Commercial labs are working to develop their own tests that hopefully will be available soon. This will allow a greater number of tests to happen close to where potential cases are.
  - [CDC has grown the COVID-19 virus in cell culture](#), which is necessary for further studies, including for additional genetic characterization. The cell-grown virus was sent to NIH's [BEI Resources Repository](#)[external icon](#)[external icon](#) for use by the broad scientific community.

## CDC Recommends

- Everyone can do their part to help us respond to this emerging public health threat:
  - It's currently flu and respiratory disease season and CDC recommends getting a flu vaccine, taking [everyday preventive actions](#) to help stop the spread of germs, and taking flu antivirals if prescribed.
  - If you are a healthcare provider, be on the look-out for:
    - People who recently traveled from China or another [affected area](#) and who have symptoms associated with COVID-19, and
    - People who have been in close contact with someone with COVID-19 or pneumonia of unknown cause. (Consult the most recent [definition for patients under investigation \[PUIs\]](#).)
  - If you are a healthcare provider or a public health responder caring for a COVID-19 patient, please take care of yourself and follow recommended [infection control procedures](#).
  - If you are a close contact of someone with COVID-19 and develop symptoms of COVID-19, call your healthcare provider and tell them about your symptoms and your exposure.
- If you are a resident in a community where person-to-person spread of COVID-19 has been detected and you develop COVID-19 symptoms, call your healthcare provider and tell them about your symptoms.

- For people who are ill with COVID-19, but are not sick enough to be hospitalized, please follow [CDC guidance on how to reduce the risk of spreading your illness to others](#). People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 are able to isolate at home during their illness.
- If you have been in China or another affected area or have been exposed to someone sick with COVID-19 in the last 14 days, you will face [some limitations on your movement and activity](#) for up to 14 days. Please follow instructions during this time. Your cooperation is integral to the ongoing public health response to try to slow spread of this virus.

### **Other Available Resources**

The following resources are available with information on COVID-19

- [U.S. Department of State China Travel Advisory](#)[external icon](#)
- [World Health Organization, Coronavirus](#)[external icon](#)

Page last reviewed: March 3, 2020

Content source: [National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases \(NCIRD\), Division of Viral Diseases](#)

World Health Organization

# Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) advice for the public

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## Basic protective measures against the new coronavirus

Stay aware of the latest information on the COVID-19 outbreak, available on the WHO website and through your national and local public health authority. COVID-19 is still affecting mostly people in China with some outbreaks in other countries. Most people who become infected experience mild illness and recover, but it can be more severe for others. Take care of your health and protect others by doing the following:

### **Wash your hands frequently**

Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.

**Why?** Washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol-based hand rub kills viruses that may be on your hands.

### **Maintain social distancing**

Maintain at least 1 metre (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

**Why?** When someone coughs or sneezes they spray small liquid droplets from their nose or mouth which may contain virus. If you are too close, you can breathe in the droplets, including the COVID-19 virus if the person coughing has the disease.

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### **Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth**

**Why?** Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth. From there, the virus can enter your body and can make you sick.

### **Practice respiratory hygiene**

Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately.

**Why?** Droplets spread virus. By following good respiratory hygiene you protect the people around you from viruses such as cold, flu and COVID-19.

### **If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early**

Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance. Follow the directions of your local health authority.

**Why?** National and local authorities will have the most up to date information on the situation in your area. Calling in advance will allow your health care provider to quickly direct you to the right health facility.

This will also protect you and help prevent spread of viruses and other infections.

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### **Stay informed and follow advice given by your healthcare provider**

Stay informed on the latest developments about COVID-19. Follow advice given by your healthcare provider, your national and local public health authority or your employer on how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19.

**Why?** National and local authorities will have the most up to date information on whether COVID-19 is spreading in your area. They are best placed to advise on what people in your area should be doing to protect themselves.

## **Protection measures for persons who are in or have recently visited (past 14 days) areas where COVID-19 is spreading**

- Follow the guidance outlined above.
- Stay at home if you begin to feel unwell, even with mild symptoms such as headache and slight runny nose, until you recover. **Why?** Avoiding contact with others and visits to medical facilities will allow these facilities to operate more effectively and help protect you and others from possible COVID-19 and other viruses.
- If you develop fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical advice promptly as this may be due to a respiratory infection or other serious condition. Call in advance and tell your provider of any recent travel or contact with travelers. **Why?** Calling in advance will allow your health care provider to quickly direct you to the right health facility. This will also help to prevent possible spread of COVID-19 and other viruses.

# New York State

## Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

### Novel Coronavirus Hotline

Call 1-888-364-3065 for Information about Coronavirus

- Also available in: [Chinese](#), [Simplified Chinese](#), [Korean](#)

available in: [English](#), [Cantonese](#), [Mandarin](#), [Korean](#)

Recently, a new coronavirus - 2019 Novel (New) Coronavirus – that was first detected in China is now spreading worldwide. This virus causes a disease called COVID-19 and can lead to fever, cough and shortness of breath. There are thousands of confirmed cases in a growing number of countries internationally and the virus is now spreading in the United States. There are ongoing investigations to learn more about this virus.

Individuals who are experiencing symptoms and may have traveled to [areas of concern](#), or have been in contact with somebody who has traveled to these areas, should call ahead to their health care provider before seeking treatment in person.

This is a rapidly changing situation. Please regularly check this site and the [CDC's Novel Coronavirus webpage](#) for updates.

Data last updated 6:00pm March 4, 2020

Test Results	New York State (Outside of NYC)	New York City (NYC)	Total Persons Under Investigation (PUI)
Positive Cases	10	1	
Negative Results	33	16	98
Pending Test Results	33	5	

- [Health Care Providers: Click for more Information](#)

## Important Health Information For Those Who Have Recently Traveled Internationally

If you recently traveled internationally to these [areas of concern](#) and feel sick with fever, cough or trouble breathing, you should:

- Seek medical care right away. Call ahead and tell them about your travel and symptoms.
- Avoid contact with others. Stay home, except for seeking medical care.
- Avoid further travel until the illness resolves.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

## Symptoms

The 2019 novel coronavirus may cause mild to severe respiratory symptoms like:

- cough
- fever
- trouble breathing and
- pneumonia

CDC believes at this time that symptoms may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus.

## How Does Novel Coronavirus Spread?

Most of the early reported cases had contact with a seafood and live animal market, suggesting an animal source of the outbreak. However, most cases are now likely to be spread from person to person by droplets when coughing. Since this virus is very new, health authorities continue to carefully watch how this virus spreads.

## Prevention

While there is currently no vaccine to prevent this virus, these simple steps can help stop the spread of this and other respiratory viruses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

## Additional Information

- [Frequently Asked Questions About Monitoring and Movement Restrictions](#) - February 17, 2020 (PDF)
- [Interim Frequently Asked Questions](#) - Updated February 12, 2020 (PDF)
  - Also available in the following languages: [Chinese Traditional](#), [Chinese Simplified](#), [Spanish](#), [Bengali](#), [Haitian Creole](#), [Korean](#), [Russian](#)
- [White House Proclamation on Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons who Pose a Risk of Transmitting 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#) - February 1, 2020
- [CDC: 2019 Novel Coronavirus](#)
- [World Health Organization: Coronavirus](#)
- [Local NYS County Health Departments](#)

## Child Care Providers and Schools

- [Update on COVID-19 for New York State Schools \(Pre-K – 12\) \(March 3, 2020\)](#) (PDF)
- [Update on COVID-19 for Higher Education Institutions in New York State \(March 2, 2020\)](#)
  - [Presentation](#) (PDF)
- [Webinar: Update on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) for Schools \(February 7, 2020\)](#)
  - [Presentation](#) (PDF)
- [Dear Child Care Provider Letter \(February 6, 2020\)](#) (ocfs.ny.gov)
- [Joint NYSDOH NYSED Letter \(February 5, 2020\)](#) (PDF)

## Press Releases

- [During Coronavirus Briefing, Governor Cuomo Signs \\$40 Million Emergency Management Authorization for Coronavirus Response](#) - March 3, 2020
- [Governor Cuomo Issues Statement Regarding Novel Coronavirus in New York](#) - March 1, 2020
- [Statement from Governor Andrew M. Cuomo on Coronavirus](#) - February 29, 2020
- [Governor Cuomo Announces \\$40 Million Emergency Appropriation to Support DOH Staffing and Equipment to Respond to Potential Novel Coronavirus Pandemic](#) - February 26, 2020
- [Governor Cuomo Updates New Yorkers on Novel Coronavirus](#) - February 10, 2020
- [Governor Cuomo Updates New Yorkers on Novel Coronavirus and Urges Continued Awareness While Flu is Still Prevalent](#) - February 7, 2020
- [Statement from New York State Health Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker on Coronavirus Testing](#) - February 5, 2020
- [Governor Cuomo Issues Update on Novel Coronavirus](#) - February 4, 2020
- [Governor Cuomo Issues Update on Novel Coronavirus and Announces New Hotline Staffed by State Health Department Experts](#) - February 2, 2020
- [Governor Cuomo Provides Update on Novel Coronavirus While Reminding New Yorkers Flu is Still Prevalent](#) - January 30, 2020
- [Governor Cuomo Issues Update on Novel Coronavirus as One More New Yorker is Identified for Testing Bringing Total to 10](#) - January 28, 2020
- [Governor Cuomo Issues Update on Novel Coronavirus as Two More New Yorkers Identified for Testing Bringing Total to Nine](#) - January 27, 2020
- [Governor Cuomo Announces State's Continued Response to Novel Coronavirus as Three More Individuals are Identified for Testing in New York State](#) - January 26, 2020
- [Governor Cuomo Outlines State Response to First Two Confirmed Cases of Novel Coronavirus in United States](#) - January 24, 2020