



## Respiratory Disease Caused by a Novel Coronavirus in China

### Novel (New) Coronavirus

- There is an outbreak of respiratory disease (which affects breathing) caused by a new virus centered in Wuhan, China. Infections with this new virus have been reported in other regions of China and in some travelers from Wuhan to other countries, including the U.S.
- The new virus belongs to a family of viruses called “coronavirus.” These viruses can cause either mild illness like a cold or can make people very sick with pneumonia. This particular coronavirus has not been seen previously in humans.
- The virus is likely to be spread from person to person.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the NYC Health Department are closely monitoring this outbreak. Visit [nyc.gov/health/coronavirus](http://nyc.gov/health/coronavirus) or [cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://cdc.gov/coronavirus) for the latest information.

### Symptoms of Infection With This Novel Coronavirus

Fever, cough or shortness of breath

### How Does the New Coronavirus Spread?

The initial cases suggested that the virus spread from animals to people, but there is evidence that it is spreading person-to-person. At this time, it’s unclear how easily the virus spreads between people.

### Who Is at Risk for This Novel Coronavirus?

Right now, the risk to New Yorkers is low. If you were recently in China and have a fever, cough or shortness of breath, call your primary health care provider. If you do not have a primary health care provider, visit [nychealthandhospitals.org](http://nychealthandhospitals.org) for help finding a provider in NYC.

### What Should New Yorkers Do?

Go about your daily lives, but take the same precautions that you would during cold and flu season.

- 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. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- If you feel sick, stay home.
- If you were recently in China and have a fever, cough or shortness of breath, call your health care provider right away.

- If you do not feel sick, commute within NYC and travel around the U.S. as you normally would.

At this time, New Yorkers **do not** need to:

- Limit travel within the city.
- Wear a face mask if you are healthy. Face masks are only recommended if directed by a health care provider.
- Change anything about where you get your food or how you prepare it.
- Avoid public gatherings and public transportation.

### **Should I Be Tested for Novel Coronavirus?**

If you develop a fever, cough or shortness of breath within 14 days after travel from China, you should call ahead to a health care provider and mention your recent travel and symptoms. If you have had close contact with someone showing these symptoms, who has recently traveled from this area, you should call ahead to a health care provider and mention your close contact and their recent travel. Your health care professional will work with the NYC Health Department to determine if you need to be tested for this novel coronavirus. If you do not have a primary health care provider, visit [nychealthandhospitals.org](http://nychealthandhospitals.org) for help finding a provider in NYC.

### **Does the Health Department Recommend the Use of Face Masks in the Community to Prevent Novel Coronavirus Transmission?**

No. The NYC Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) do not currently recommend the use of face masks among the general public. While limited person-to-person spread among close contacts has been detected, this virus is not currently spreading in the community in the U.S.

### **What Can International Travelers Do to Protect Themselves?**

Avoid any nonessential travel to China. Visit [cdc.gov/travel](http://cdc.gov/travel) for the latest travel health notices.

If you were recently in China and have a fever, cough or shortness of breath, you should follow these steps until your illness resolves:

- Seek medical care right away. Before you go to a health care provider's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms. Wear a face mask if you need to leave your home.
- After you have been seen by a health care provider, stay home and avoid contact with others.
- Avoid travel on any public transportation (such as bus, subway, train or airplane).
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
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## Coronavirus

Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that can cause either mild illness, such as a cold, or can make people sick with pneumonia.

If you are a medical provider, see our Novel Respiratory Virus page.

### 2019 Novel Coronavirus

Recently, a novel (new) coronavirus was detected in thousands of people worldwide, primarily in China. There is evidence the infection can be spread person-to-person. A "novel coronavirus" is a strain that has not been previously found in humans.

No people have been diagnosed with this novel coronavirus in New York City (see up-to-date case count). The risk to New Yorkers of contracting this novel coronavirus is low. If you are experiencing symptoms and want to get tested, talk to your health care provider.

There are no specific vaccines or treatments available for this novel coronavirus, or any other coronavirus.

If you are planning any travel outside the US, visit CDC's Travelers' Health webpage for the latest travel health notices.

### Symptoms

Symptoms for this novel coronavirus, also referred to as 2019-nCoV, can include fever, cough or shortness of breath. An infection can result in death, but that is a rare outcome.

### Prevention

You should go about your daily life, but take the same precautions that you would during cold and flu season:

- Get your flu shot — it's not too late.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or sleeve when sneezing or coughing — do not use your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Stay home if you are not feeling well.

### If You Think You May Be Sick

If you were recently in Hubei province China — or have been in contact with someone who has traveled to the affected area and was ill — and are now experiencing symptoms of this novel coronavirus:

- Seek medical care right away. Before you go to a health care provider's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms. Hospital staff will not ask you about your immigration status.
- After you have been seen by a health care provider, stay home and avoid contact with others until you are well. Wear a face mask if you need to leave your home when sick.
- Avoid travel on any public transportation (such as bus, subway, train or airplane) until you feel better.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
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### Case Count in NYC

Testing to determine whether the pending cases are confirmed as positive or negative will take at least 36-to-48 hours.

As of February 4, 2020:

People Under Investigation in New York City	
Positive	0
Negative	1
Pending	2
Total	3

### Additional Resources for 2019 Outbreak

- CDC: Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)
- Novel Coronavirus Outbreak Factsheet (PDF)
- Other Languages: 繁體中文 | 简体中文

## Other Coronaviruses

[Expand All](#)[Collapse All](#)

### General Symptoms and Prevention

Human coronaviruses usually cause mild-to-moderate illness in people. Symptoms can include:

- Runny nose
- Headache
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Fever

To reduce your risk of infection:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

### MERS and SARS

Two human coronaviruses — MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV — can frequently cause severe illness. MERS symptoms usually include fever, cough, and shortness of breath which often progress to pneumonia. About three out of every 10 patients reported with MERS have died. MERS cases continue to occur, primarily in the Arabian Peninsula.

SARS symptoms often include fever, chills and body aches. These symptoms usually progress to pneumonia. No human cases of SARS have been reported anywhere in the world since 2004.

MERS and SARS are different coronaviruses from the 2019 outbreak that started in China.

# Coronavirus

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