

COVID-19

Frequently Asked Questions



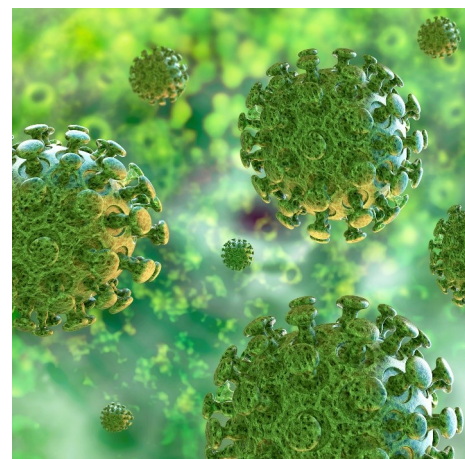
Adapted from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention and the World Health Organization

What is COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019)?

COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by a new, or novel, coronavirus strain that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in late 2019. It has now been detected in many locations internationally, including cases in the U.S.

What is a coronavirus?

- Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans.
- In humans, several coronaviruses are known to cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The most recently discovered coronavirus causes coronavirus disease COVID-19.



COVID-19

Who is at risk for COVID-19?

Currently the risk of infection is higher in areas where there is transmission of the virus in the community. At this time, there are cases in the U.S., however the risk to the general public is currently low. To minimize the risk of spread, health officials are working with health care providers to promptly identify and evaluate any suspected cases. Travelers to should visit www.cdc.gov/travel for the latest travel guidance from the CDC.

How does COVID-19 spread?

- Health experts are still learning the details about exactly how this new coronavirus spreads, but so far the research shows that the disease is spread similarly to other respiratory viruses such as influenza.
- COVID-19 can spread from person-to-person through small droplets from the nose or mouth which are spread when a person with COVID-19 coughs or exhales. These droplets land on objects and surfaces around the person.
- Other people can catch COVID-19 by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose or mouth.
- People can also catch the COVID-19 virus if they breathe in droplets from a person with COVID-19 who coughs out or exhales droplets. This is the reason why we recommend people stay away (i.e., social distancing) from people who are sick.

Can the virus that causes COVID-19 be transmitted through the air?

Studies to date suggest that the virus that causes COVID-19 is mainly transmitted through contact with respiratory droplets rather than through the air.

Can COVID-19 be caught from a person who has no symptoms?

- This is still being researched, but it appears that the main way the disease spreads is through respiratory droplets expelled by someone who is coughing.
- The risk of catching COVID-19 from someone with no symptoms at all is very low. However, many people with COVID-19 experience only mild symptoms. This is particularly true at the early stages of the disease. It is therefore possible to catch COVID-19 from someone who has, for example, just a mild cough and does not feel ill.

How likely am I to catch COVID-19?

- The risk depends on where you have travelled recently or who you have come into contact with. The risk of infection is higher in areas where there is transmission of the virus in the community. Visit the CDC website for an up-to-date list of areas where community spread of COVID-19 is occurring.
- For people in most other parts of the world, including in Wisconsin, your risk of getting COVID-19 is currently low. That said, it is likely that COVID-19 will spread in the U.S. and in Wisconsin so it's important to be aware of the situation and preparedness efforts in the area.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

- People who have been diagnosed with novel coronavirus have reported symptoms that may appear in as few as 1 day or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus, but symptoms seem to be appearing most commonly around 5 days. This is still an area of study.
- Symptoms of COVID-19 are usually mild and begin gradually. We are also learning that some people become infected but don't develop any symptoms and don't feel unwell.



Most common COVID-19 symptoms :

- Fever
- Tiredness
- Dry cough

Some patients may have:

- Aches and pains
- Nasal congestion
- Runny nose
- Sore throat
- Diarrhea

Is there anyone who is at risk for more serious illness?

While we are still learning about how COVID-2019 affects people, it appears those who are older and people with pre-existing medical conditions develop serious illness more often than others.

How can I reduce my risk of getting COVID-19?

- If you are traveling overseas follow the CDC's guidance: www.cdc.gov/travel
- Right now, COVID-19 has not been spreading widely in the U.S., so there are no additional precautions recommended for the general public. Steps you can take to prevent spread of flu and the common cold will also help prevent coronavirus:
 - ❑ Wash hands often with soap and water
 - ❑ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
 - ❑ Avoid contact with people who are sick
 - ❑ Stay home while you are sick and avoid close contact with others
 - ❑ Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing
- **Currently, there are no vaccines available to prevent COVID-19 infections.**

How is COVID-19 treated?



- There are no medications specifically approved for coronavirus.
- About 80% of people with mild coronavirus illness will recover on their own by drinking plenty of fluids, resting, and taking pain and fever medications. However, some people may become seriously ill and can develop difficulty breathing.
- Some patients develop pneumonia and require medical care or hospitalization.

How long does the virus live on surfaces?

- Studies suggest that coronaviruses (including preliminary information on the COVID-19 virus) may persist on surfaces for a few hours or up to several days. This may vary under different conditions (e.g., type of surface, temperature or humidity of the environment).
- If you think a surface may be infected with any virus, clean it with simple disinfectant to kill the virus and protect yourself and others. Clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water. Avoid touching your eyes, mouth, or nose.

Should I be concerned about pets or other animals and COVID-19?

While this virus seems to have emerged from an animal source, it is now spreading from person-to-person. There is no evidence that any animals or pets in the United States might be a source of infection with COVID-19.

What about animals or animal products imported from China?

- CDC does not have any evidence to suggest that animals or animal products imported from China pose a risk for spreading COVID-19 in the U.S. This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available.
- The United States Department of Agriculture regulates the importation of animals and animal products, and CDC regulates the importation of animals and animal products capable of spreading human disease.

Am I at risk for novel coronavirus from a package or products shipping from China?

- In general, because of poor survivability of these coronaviruses on surfaces, there is likely very low risk of spread from products or packaging that are shipped over a period of days or weeks at ambient temperatures.
- Coronaviruses are generally thought to be spread most often by respiratory droplets. Currently there is no evidence to support transmission of COVID-19 associated with imported goods and there have not been any cases of COVID-19 in the U.S. associated with imported goods.