



Novel (new) Coronavirus (nCoV)

What is a Coronavirus?

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 a Novel (new) Coronavirus?

A novel coronavirus (nCoV) is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans.

How is the nCoV spread?

The way the nCoV is spread remains unclear at this time.

With SARS and MERS, it is thought to have happened through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Spread of SARS and MERS between people has generally occurred between close contacts.

What are the symptoms?

Common symptoms include fever and respiratory symptoms such as cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory symptoms, kidney failure and even death.

Am I at risk?

At present the risk for exposure to this new coronavirus is:

- travel to or living in the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province, China,
- if you are a healthcare worker who has been working in an environment where suspect cases of nCoV are being cared for,
- if you have been a close contact of a person suspected or confirmed to have nCoV.

Can I travel to an affected areas?

There are no travel restrictions put in place by the World Health Organization, however, affected countries/cities may limit travel to and from their jurisdictions.

Even if travel is allowed, non-essential travel to the affected areas should be avoided at this time.

What if I have recently travelled to Wuhan, China and have developed fever and respiratory symptoms?

Sick travelers should delay travel until cleared to travel by a doctor or public health authority.

If you have fever and/or respiratory symptoms on arrival at the L.F. Wade International Airport, self-report your symptoms and travel history to the Customs Officer. This will help to protect other people who may be in the airport.

If you develop a fever and respiratory symptoms within 14 days after traveling from Wuhan China, you should contact your healthcare provider and mention your recent travel.

Tell the doctor about your recent travel and your symptoms before you go to the office or emergency room. Advance notice will help the doctor care for you and protect other people who may be in the office.

Is there a vaccine for the new coronavirus?

There is no vaccine to prevent the new coronavirus.

Is there a treatment for the new coronavirus?

There is no specific treatment for illness caused by the new coronavirus. Medical care is supportive and to help relieve symptoms.

How can I protect myself?

Avoid non-essential travel to affected areas at this time.

If travelling to affected areas, reduce the general risk of respiratory infections:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact, such as kissing, sharing cups, or sharing eating utensils, with sick people.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, such as toys and doorknobs.
- Avoid close contact with live or dead farm or wild animals.

Are local authorities monitoring the new coronavirus outbreak?

The Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit in the Ministry of Health regularly monitors communicable diseases and syndromes that may affect our community both locally and globally. This monitoring allows for early detection and appropriate response to unusual events and outbreaks of disease such as the new coronavirus.

Adapted from:
Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV). World Health Organization, 2019. Retrieved from
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

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