

# Coronavirus (COVID-19) Frequently Asked Questions

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## What is coronavirus (COVID-19)?

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness caused by a coronavirus that was first identified in China. It is contagious and includes symptoms like fever, cough, and shortness of breath. U.S. health officials have advised that Americans should be prepared for significant disruption due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

## What are the symptoms?

The most common symptoms are fever, cough, and shortness of breath, but occasionally symptoms are more severe. Symptoms typically appear within two to 14 days after exposure.

## How is COVID-19 spread?

The virus is airborne and spreads from person to person through coughing and sneezing. You may be at greater risk if you have recently lived in or traveled to regions where there are current outbreaks or if you come into contact with someone who has the virus.

## How do I protect myself and my family?

Basic measures to stay healthy include washing your hands frequently, for at least 20 seconds, maintaining social distance, and avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth. Stay at home if you begin to feel unwell, even with mild symptoms such as

headache and slightly runny nose, until you recover. If you have fever, cough, and difficulty breathing, seek medical care. Call ahead before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room.

## What is the current risk in the U.S.?

U.S. health officials have advised that Americans should be prepared for potential disruption due to the COVID-19 outbreak. While the risk of infection remains low, the number of cases identified internationally continues to grow, including in the U.S. It is likely that person-to-person spread will continue. Get the most up-to-date information from the CDC.

## How severe is it?

Many cases seem to be mild. But the elderly and those with pre-existing conditions (like heart and lung diseases or diabetes) are especially vulnerable.

## What should I do if I think I have COVID-19?

Seek medical care. You should call ahead before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room. HealthiestYou doctors can answer questions about the disease, evaluate your risk, and provide support by phone or video to help relieve symptoms for affected patients.

## Talk to a doctor 24/7

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