

Novel Coronavirus

(COVID-19)



1. What is a coronavirus?

Coronavirus is a type of virus that causes various illnesses, ranging from the common cold to more serious respiratory disease. The 2019 novel coronavirus is a new strain of coronavirus that hasn't been identified before in humans.

2. Who gets coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are normally found in animals, but can be spread to humans. Some coronaviruses are also spread from person to person. Recently, thousands of cases of pneumonia associated with a novel coronavirus in Wuhan City in Hubei Province, China have been identified.

3. How is coronavirus spread?

Human coronaviruses most commonly are spread from an infected person to others through:

- Coughing and sneezing.
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands.
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes before washing your hands.
- Rarely, fecal contamination.

4. What are the symptoms of novel coronavirus?

Symptoms include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Severe illness

Complications and outcomes of this virus are still being investigated.

5. How is novel coronavirus treated?

There is no specific treatment for illness caused by a novel coronavirus. However, many of the symptoms can be treated. Treatment will be based on the patient's condition. There is no vaccine for novel coronavirus.

Key Points

Novel coronavirus is a new virus that hasn't been identified before in humans

Coronaviruses can be spread through close personal contact, or by touching an object or surface with the virus on it

Use the same measures that prevent respiratory infections to prevent novel coronavirus

Public Health is taking steps to prevent the spread of novel coronavirus in Imperial County.

For more information:

Imperial County Public Health Department
<https://www.icphd.org>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>

World Health Organization
<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>



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6. How can I protect myself when I travel?

Novel coronavirus infection is rare in the United States. Activities that can prevent the spread of more common respiratory infections, like the flu, can be effective at preventing the spread of novel coronavirus.

Travelers to impacted areas should:

- Avoid animals (alive or dead), animal markets, and products that come from animals (such as uncooked meat).
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Limit close contact, like kissing and sharing cups or utensils, with people who are sick.
- Clean surfaces that are touched often, like toys and doorknobs.

Individuals who have traveled to an impacted area or been in close contact with someone who has traveled to an impacted area should:

- Stay home and avoid contact with others, except for when seeking medical care.
- Seek medical care right away if feeling ill. Before going to a doctor's office or emergency room, individuals should call ahead to notify the healthcare provider of their recent travel and symptoms. This will allow providers to prepare for their arrival.
- Avoid travel while sick.
- Cover mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve (not hands) when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue in the trash.



Imperial County Public Health Department

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