



AHLA's COVID-19 General Virus FAQs

Got a question?

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Q: Any insight as to air travel precautions?

A: Because of how air circulates and is filtered on airplanes, most viruses and other germs do not spread easily. Although the risk of infection on an airplane is low, try to avoid contact with sick passengers and wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. (Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/faqs.html#air-cruise-travel>)

Q: Are there any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in domestic animals?

A: CDC is aware of a very small number of pets, including dogs and cats, outside the United States reported to be infected with the virus that causes COVID-19 after close contact with people with COVID-19. CDC has not received any reports of pets becoming sick with COVID-19 in the United States. To date, there is no evidence that pets can spread the virus to people.

The first case of an animal testing positive for COVID-19 in the United States was a tiger with a respiratory illness at a zoo in New York City. Samples from this tiger were taken and tested after several lions and tigers at the zoo showed signs of respiratory illness. Public health officials believe these large cats became sick after being exposed to a zoo employee who was actively shedding virus. This investigation is ongoing.

We are still learning about this virus, but we know that it is zoonotic and it appears that it can spread from people to animals in some situations.

CDC is working with human and animal health partners to monitor this situation and will continue to provide updates as information becomes available. Further studies are needed to understand if and how different animals could be affected by COVID-19. (Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/animals.html>)



Q: Will warm weather help kill the virus?

A: It is not yet known whether weather and temperature impact the spread of COVID-19. Some other viruses, like the common cold and flu, spread more during cold weather months but that does not mean it is impossible to become sick with these viruses during other months. At this time, it is not known whether the spread of COVID-19 will decrease when weather becomes warmer. There is much more to learn about the transmissibility, severity, and other features associated with COVID-19 and investigations are ongoing. (Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#How-COVID-19-Spreads>)

Q: Is this more or less dangerous for children?

A: Based on available evidence, children do not appear to be at higher risk for COVID-19 than adults. While some children and infants have been sick with COVID-19, adults make up most of the known cases to date. (Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#COVID-19-and-Children>)

Q: Will wearing a mask will prevent catching the Coronavirus/COVID-19?

A: In light of new data about [how COVID-19 spreads](#), along with evidence of widespread COVID-19 illness in communities across the country, CDC recommends that people wear a [cloth face covering](#) to cover their nose and mouth in the community setting. This is to protect people around you if you are infected but do not have symptoms. (Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-faq.html>)

Q: What if I am carrying the virus but not coughing, sneezing, can I still spread the virus to others without direct contact?

A: COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly through close contact from person-to-person in respiratory droplets from someone who is infected. People who are infected often have symptoms of illness. Some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus. (Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html>)



Q: Are you contagious during the incubation period? Do we know how long it takes an affected person to show symptoms?

A: The onset and duration of viral shedding and the period of infectiousness for COVID-19 are not yet known. It is possible that SARS-CoV-2 RNA may be detectable in the upper or lower respiratory tract for weeks after illness onset, similar to infections with MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV. However, detection of viral RNA does not necessarily mean that infectious virus is present. There are reports of asymptomatic infections (detection of virus with no development of symptoms) and pre-symptomatic infections (detection of virus prior to development of symptoms) with SARS-CoV-2, but their role in transmission is not yet known. Based on existing literature, the incubation period (the time from exposure to development of symptoms) of SARS-CoV-2 and other coronaviruses (e.g. MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV) ranges from 2–14 days. (Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/faq.html#Transmission>)

Q: Is it true that the virus can live on an object for 9-14 days?

A: The virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is stable for several hours to days in aerosols and on surfaces, according to a new study from National Institutes of Health, CDC, UCLA and Princeton University scientists in The New England Journal of Medicine. The scientists found that severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was detectable in aerosols for up to three hours, up to four hours on copper, up to 24 hours on cardboard and up to two to three days on plastic and stainless steel. (Source: <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/new-coronavirus-stable-hours-surfaces>)

Q: Can one get the virus again after recovering from it the first time?

A: CDC and partners are investigating to determine if you can get sick with COVID-19 more than once. At this time, we are not sure if you can become re-infected. Until we know more, continue to take steps to protect yourself and others. (Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#Symptoms-&-Testing>)



Q: Is there any chance people who have had a flu or pneumonia vaccine this year might have some protection against this virus?

A: No. People often compare COVID-19 to influenza, and it's true that the two diseases share some similarities, says Yale Medicine infectious disease specialist Manisha Juthani, MD. A major difference is that the flu is preventable by vaccine, and, so far, COVID-19 is not, she says. But while a flu vaccine won't prevent or reduce severity of COVID-19, public health authorities strongly advise everyone to get their annual flu shot. In addition to preventing or mitigating the severity of flu, the vaccine may simplify the evaluation of patients during the flu season who may have a more serious condition. (Source: <https://www.yalemedicine.org/conditions/covid-19/>)

Q: How can you tell the difference between cold, flu and COVID-19?

A: The symptoms are similar, including fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Some patients with novel coronavirus have had gastrointestinal problems or diarrhea. To diagnose a potential case, healthcare professionals may use a COVID-19 diagnostic test and/or run tests to rule out flu and other infections.

Although there is no vaccine available to prevent COVID-19 at this time, it is important to ensure that you and your family's vaccinations are up to date, including flu and pneumococcal (pneumonia) vaccines. This will help reduce the pressure on the healthcare system by reducing vaccine-preventable diseases. Everyone age 6 months and older should be vaccinated against flu every year. (Source: <https://www.nfid.org/infectious-diseases/frequently-asked-questions-about-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov/>)

Q: If Coronavirus is a new virus why has it been on a Lysol can for years?

There are many types of human coronaviruses including some that commonly cause mild upper-respiratory tract illnesses. COVID-19 is a new disease, caused by a novel (or new) coronavirus that has not previously been seen in humans. The name of this disease was selected following the World Health Organization (WHO) best practice icon for naming of new human infectious disease. (Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#Coronavirus-Disease-2019-Basics>)