



January 28, 2020

What is novel coronavirus?

Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a new virus that has only spread in people since December 2019. Health experts are concerned because little is known about this new virus and it has the potential to cause severe illness and pneumonia in some people.

How severe is novel coronavirus?

Experts are still learning about the range of illness from novel coronavirus. Reported cases have ranged from mild illness (similar to a common cold) to severe pneumonia that requires hospitalization. So far, deaths have been reported mainly in older adults who had other health conditions.

How does novel coronavirus spread?

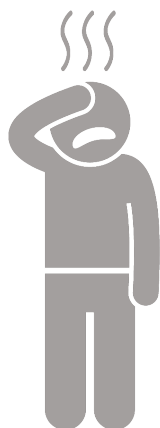
Health experts are still learning the details about how this new coronavirus spreads. Other coronaviruses, like the common cold, spread from an infected person to others through:

- the air by 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
- in rare cases, contact with feces

What are the symptoms?

People who have been diagnosed with novel coronavirus have reported symptoms that may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus and include:

- **Fever**
- **Cough**
- **Difficulty breathing**



FEVER



COUGH



DIFFICULTY
BREATHING

Who is at risk for novel coronavirus?

At this time, there are a small number of individual cases in the United States who have recently traveled through Wuhan, China. There has not been person to person spread of novel coronavirus in the United States as a result of these cases, therefore the risk to the general public remains low. To minimize the risk of spread, health officials are working with healthcare providers to promptly identify and evaluate any suspected cases.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and guidance may change. See wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices for the latest travel guidance from the CDC.

How can I prevent from getting novel coronavirus?

If you are traveling overseas (to China, but also to other places) follow the CDC's guidance: wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices.

Steps you can take to prevent spread of flu and the common cold will also help prevent novel coronavirus:

- wash hands often with soap and water. If not available, use hand sanitizer.
- 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 novel coronavirus infections.



How is novel coronavirus treated?

Most people with mild coronavirus illness will recover on their own by drinking plenty of fluids, resting, and taking pain and fever medications. However, some cases develop pneumonia and require medical care or hospitalization. There are no medications specifically approved for novel coronavirus.

What is Fairfax County doing to prevent the spread of illness?

The Fairfax County Health Department is closely monitoring the situation by working with local providers as well as state, regional and federal partners to quickly identify people who may be sick. Currently, people who've had a history of travel through Wuhan, China and experiencing fever, cough and/or difficulty breathing should call their medical provider for guidance as quickly as possible.

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www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health



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