



# 2019 novel coronavirus

Fact Sheet | Updated 02/05/2020

## What you need to know about 2019 novel coronavirus

It's normal to be concerned about new diseases, and new information is coming out frequently. The best thing people can do is stay informed from reliable sources and know the facts.

Currently, the risk to most Coloradans from 2019 novel coronavirus is LOW, and we are confident the health care system in Colorado is prepared to promptly identify and evaluate any suspected cases and minimize potential disease spread.

## Stay informed

CO HELP: Novel coronavirus hotline	Sources for public health information
<p>For answers in many languages including English, Spanish (Español), Mandarin (普通话), and more:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call 303-389-1687 or 1-877-462-2911</li> <li>• Email <a href="mailto:COHELP@RMPDC.org">COHELP@RMPDC.org</a></li> </ul> <p>If you have symptoms and think you have been exposed, call a health care provider.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State public health web page: <a href="https://colorado.gov/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus">colorado.gov/cdphe/2019-novel-coronavirus</a></li> <li>• Facebook (<a href="https://facebook.com/CDPHE">facebook.com/CDPHE</a>) and Twitter (@CDPHE)</li> <li>• CDC web page <a href="https://cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov">cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov</a></li> </ul>

## Know the facts

- To become sick, someone has to be “exposed” to the virus. CDC defines exposure as being within approximately 6 feet (2 meters) of someone with a confirmed infection for a prolonged period of time.
- Person-to-person spread is thought to occur mainly through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza and other respiratory viruses spread. However, even that is not a guarantee that someone will become sick with the virus.
- For these reasons, people at higher risk of becoming sick are:
  - People who have traveled to China within the last two weeks.
  - People who have had close contact with someone who was confirmed to have the novel coronavirus.
- Like any other virus, no identity, community, ethnic, or racial group in Colorado is more at risk for getting or spreading 2019 novel coronavirus.
- State and local public health are working together, following federal guidance, to assess Colorado travelers returning from China to determine the need for monitoring, restriction of movement, quarantine, or other action to prevent the spread of the virus.

## **Risk from other viruses is greater**

- There are many kinds of coronaviruses, like the common cold, currently circulating in Colorado and the U.S. that cause respiratory illness. While these viruses may also be called “coronaviruses,” they are not 2019 novel coronavirus.
- There also are many other kinds of respiratory illnesses (such as flu) circulating right now.
- People are at much greater risk of getting the flu than the 2019 novel coronavirus. It’s not too late to get the flu vaccine.

## **Symptoms and severity**

- Symptoms of respiratory viruses, including the novel coronavirus, include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.
- Any of these illnesses can be severe and require hospitalization, but most individuals recover by resting, drinking plenty of liquids, and taking pain and fever-reducing medications.
- If you did not have a high risk of exposure, it is very unlikely you have novel coronavirus. But if you are ill and concerned, contact your health care provider.

## **Protecting yourself from 2019 novel coronavirus and other respiratory viruses**

### If you are healthy:

- Continue your normal daily routine. This means you can continue to participate in public gatherings such as work, school, or social activities.
- Get your flu shot, and stay up-to-date on other routine childhood and adult immunizations.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or, at minimum, use an alcohol-based hand rub, which may be less effective than soap and water.
- Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as desks, doorknobs, handrails, etc.

### If you are sick:

- Stay home
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your inner elbow shirt sleeve.
- Wash your hands with soap and water or, at minimum, alcohol-based hand rub, which may be less effective than soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with anyone else with cold or flu-like symptoms.
- Get your flu shot, and stay up-to-date on other routine childhood and adult immunizations.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as desks, doorknobs, handrails, etc.

## **2019 novel coronavirus in the community**

- It’s important to remember that the risk to most Coloradans from 2019 novel coronavirus is low. If an individual does not have a high risk of exposure, it is very unlikely they have novel coronavirus. But if they are ill and concerned, they should contact a health care provider.
- Colorado state and local public health are working together, following federal guidance, to assess Colorado travelers returning from China to determine the need for monitoring, restriction of movement, quarantine, or other action to prevent the spread of the virus.