

COVID-19 FAQ

Q: What is COVID-19?

A: COVID-19 is a virus strain. Also known as novel coronavirus & SARS-CoV-2.

Health experts are closely monitoring the situation because little is known about this new virus and it has the potential to cause severe illness and pneumonia in some people.

Q: How does COVID-19 spread and what are the symptoms?

A: COVID-19 is primarily spread through respiratory droplets, which means to become infected, people generally must be within six feet of someone who is contagious and encounter these droplets.

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads. Symptoms of COVID-19 appear within 2 to 14 days after exposure and include fever, cough, runny nose and difficulty breathing.

Q: How long does it take for symptoms of COVID-19 to appear?

A: CDC believes at this time that symptoms of COVID-19 may appear in as few as 2 days, or as long as 14 days after exposure. There are isolated reports of individuals transmitting the infection to others before they develop symptoms.

Q. How easy is it to contract COVID-19?

A: Below is a graphic showing how infectious COVID-19 is as compared to other viruses. It is about as infectious as seasonal influenza.

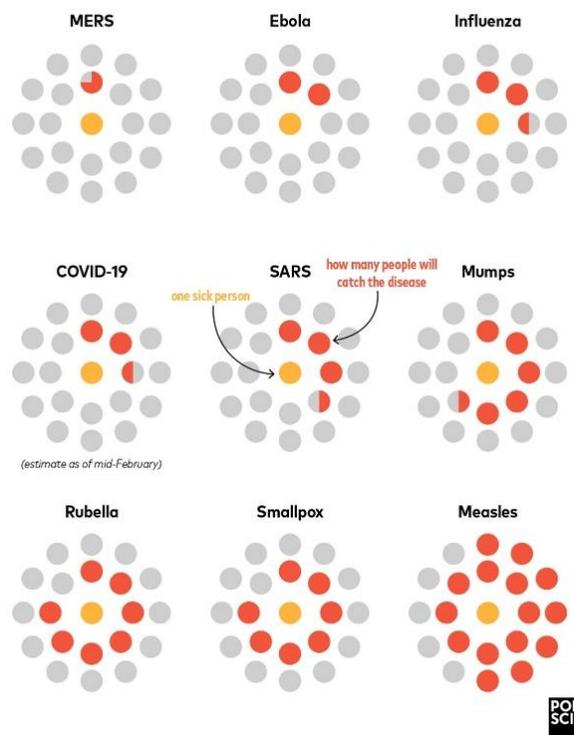


Figure 1 <https://www.popsci.com/story/health/wuhan-coronavirus-updates/>

Q: How deadly is COVID-19?

A: The mortality rate is currently 2%, but some experts expect the true fatality rate to be closer to 1%. It is believed that mild cases of COVID-19 are going undetected. COVID-19 is significantly more lethal in the elderly population and those with preexisting conditions. In the general population, the mortality rate is similar to influenza.

AGE	DEATH RATE confirmed cases	DEATH RATE all cases
80+ years old	21.9%	14.8%
70-79 years old		8.0%
60-69 years old		3.6%
50-59 years old		1.3%
40-49 years old		0.4%
30-39 years old		0.2%
20-29 years old		0.2%
10-19 years old		0.2%
0-9 years old		no fatalities

PRE-EXISTING CONDITION	DEATH RATE confirmed cases	DEATH RATE all cases
Cardiovascular disease	13.2%	10.5%
Diabetes	9.2%	7.3%
Chronic respiratory disease	8.0%	6.3%
Hypertension	8.4%	6.0%
Cancer	7.6%	5.6%
<i>no pre-existing conditions</i>		0.9%

Q: How can I protect myself from COVID-19?

A: Practice the following:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol and rub your hands for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact (within 6 feet) with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Standard household cleansers and wipes are effective in cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Q: How long can COVID-19 live outside the body on surfaces?

A: Because COVID-19 is a virus, it requires a host cell to reproduce. There are many variables to the survivability of the virus outside the body. The virus does not exist well in sunlight, wet surfaces, or extreme temperatures. The environment for the virus to survive must be just right. Disinfecting the apparatus, and equipment after exposure to a potential or confirmed positive patient requires antiseptic wipes or 60 percent or higher alcohol-based cleanser to eliminate any possible virus survivability.

Q: What should I do if I think I have COVID-19?

A: Follow the instructions provided by the CDC at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/sick-with-2019-nCoV-fact-sheet.pdf>

Q: Who can I call if I have additional questions?

A: You can call the Infectious Disease Hotline any time at 770-528-8163.