

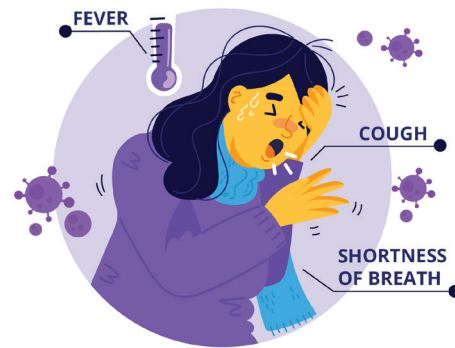
Symptoms of Coronavirus

The coronavirus family of viruses includes many pathogens that cause human sickness. These viruses can be passed from animals to humans. Although many common coronaviruses can cause mild illness, some newly identified coronaviruses are capable of causing more severe illness. Recent outbreaks of these newly identified coronaviruses have been traced to animals including cats, camels, and other mammals.

Examples of these newly identified coronaviruses include the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). In late 2019, another new, or novel, coronavirus was detected in humans. It was first identified in Wuhan, China, but within a few short weeks had rapidly spread around the globe. This novel coronavirus is genetically related to the coronavirus that caused SARS, so it has been named the SARS coronavirus 2 or SARS-CoV-2. The illness caused by SARS-CoV-2, first identified in late 2019, is called **Coronavirus Disease** or COVID-19.

COVID-19 causes respiratory symptoms including:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Body aches
- Fatigue
- Loss of smell and taste



In severe cases, COVID-19 can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure, and death.

Coronavirus is spread by contact with droplets that contain the virus. These droplets may be spread by symptomatic people who are coughing or sneezing, but the virus can also be transmitted by people who don't have symptoms but are still carrying the virus or who have only mild symptoms. Newly infected people may not show symptoms for 2-14 days, with an average of 5 days before symptoms appear. During this time, they are still shedding the virus and can spread the disease.

At the same time, many people who are infected with coronavirus never develop symptoms (they are asymptomatic). These carriers may also spread the virus.

Finally, coronavirus is thought to survive on surfaces for anywhere from a few hours to a few days, depending on temperature, the surface, and humidity.

If you think you may have been exposed to the virus, develop symptoms, or have had contact with an infected person, get tested and self-quarantine. This means not going into public or exposing non-infected people to the virus.

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References

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