

Symptoms of Coronavirus

Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that cause sickness in humans. While many common coronaviruses cause mild illness, some newly identified ones cause more severe illness. The virus that causes COVID-19 is one of these new viruses and is very contagious. It can cause severe illness and life-threatening complications.

Coronavirus is spread from person to person by contact with infected droplets or surfaces. This means infected people can spread the virus through coughing and sneezing. The virus also spreads to people when they touch surfaces that have been exposed to the virus.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says symptoms may appear two to 14 days after exposure to coronavirus. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are a fever, cough, shortness of breath, chills, body aches, and fatigue. Some people report a loss of taste and smell.

In severe cases, complications include pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and death. Older adults and people with chronic health conditions like heart or lung disease and diabetes are at a higher risk for experiencing these more serious complications. If you think you have been exposed to COVID-19, call your doctor.

If you or a loved one experiences more severe symptoms such as difficulty breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, are confused or find it difficult to stay alert, your lips and face turn blue, get medical help immediately.

Isolate yourself if you have symptoms and follow the advice of your doctor. Isolation can last a few days or longer depending on your symptoms. If you don't have symptoms, stay home as much as you can and practice social distancing to help prevent the spread of this virus to your community. When you do leave the house to shop for groceries or run errands, wear a mask, and carry hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Continue to wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds and stay away from those with symptoms.