

Symptoms of COVID-19

Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that cause sickness in humans. While many common coronaviruses cause mild illness, some newly identified ones can 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. COVID-19 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, fatigue, headache, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. Some people may have 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 in close contact, within 6 feet for at least 15 minutes, get tested at least 5 days after you have been exposed, even if you don't have any symptoms.

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, isolate immediately and get tested. Stay home until you receive the results of your test. 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.

To prevent the spread of Covid-19, get vaccinated and stay up to date with boosters, wear a mask, get tested if you think you have been exposed to COVID-19, and wash your hands often. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol to help prevent the spread of this virus to your community.