



Frequently Asked Questions: Novel Coronavirus, Wuhan City, China

1. What is the novel coronavirus?

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can evolve and infect people (“species jump”) then spread between people such as has been seen with MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV.

A novel (new) Coronavirus has been identified originating from Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. It has been named 2019-nCoV.

2. How are coronaviruses spread?

Person-to-person spread can occur, although it’s unclear how easily 2019-nCoV spreads between people. The virus can be spread from an infected person to others through: the air by coughing and sneezing, Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands, touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, eyes or nose, Rarely, fecal contamination

3. What are the symptoms of coronavirus infection?

Common human coronavirus usually causes mild to moderate upper-respiratory tract illnesses, like the common cold. Symptoms include: Fever, Cough, Sore throat, Runny nose, Headache

In severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia or bronchitis. This is more common in people with cardiopulmonary disease, people with weakened immune systems, infants, and older adults

4. How many people have been infected with 2019-nCoV?

As of 1/30/20 there were 7,783 confirmed cases in China with 170 deaths reported. Cases have also been confirmed in Thailand, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. There are 5 confirmed US Cases.

Current data is available on the CDC’s Situation Summary website:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html>

5. Have there been any cases in the U.S.?

The first reported U.S. case was announced on 1/21/20 in a traveler from Wuhan City who presented for healthcare in Washington State with mild pneumonia symptoms. There are 5 confirmed cases.

6. How can I keep myself safe from 2019-nCoV?

There is currently no vaccine to prevent infection. The CDC recommends everyday preventive actions to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.

Ted Wheeler, Mayor

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- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

These are everyday habits that can help prevent the spread of several viruses. CDC does have [specific guidance for travelers](#).

7. What do I do if I become sick with 2019 Coronavirus?

- Stay home, except to receive medical care
- Separate yourself from others in your home
- Call ahead before visiting your doctor
- Wear a facemask around others
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash
- Wash your hands and avoid sharing household items
- Monitor your symptoms and seek help if you get worse

8. Is there treatment available?

There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for 2019-nCoV infection. People infected with 2019-nCoV should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms. People who think they may have been exposed to 2019-nCoV should contact your healthcare provider immediately.

Should the situation worsen, the City would share more information in coordination with the Bureau of Emergency Management, County and State Health agencies.

Additional information can be found via these resources: [CDC](#), [Multnomah County Health](#).



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