

## **Novel Coronavirus (2019nCoV) Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How do coronaviruses spread?**

Human coronaviruses most commonly spread from an infected person to others through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, or close personal contact (such as caring for or living with an infected person). It is unclear if touching an object or surface with the virus on it and then touching your mouth or eyes can transmit the virus. It is also unclear how long the virus can live on objects.

### **What is the risk of becoming infected with the coronavirus?**

In Canada and the United States the risk of becoming infected with the coronavirus is extremely low. Travelers arriving from China are only allowed to land at certain airports and are being screened and provided with information on what to do if they develop any symptoms. All known cases are being quarantined and monitored by public health officials.

### **How long does the virus live on surfaces?**

Preliminary information suggests the virus will only live for several hours on surfaces.

### **What should I use to clean surfaces?**

Simple household cleaning solutions are effective at killing the virus.

### **What are the symptoms of coronavirus infections?**

Coronaviruses typically cause respiratory symptoms, such as runny nose, headache, cough, sore throat and fever. Sometimes, coronaviruses can cause more severe infections, such as pneumonia (infection of the lungs), kidney failure or even death.

### **How soon after exposure do symptoms occur?**

In general, symptoms usually appear two to 14 days after exposure.

### **How are coronavirus infections diagnosed?**

Special laboratory tests for respiratory or blood samples are needed to diagnose coronavirus infection. This testing is more likely to be used if you have severe symptoms or if your infection might be caused by the Novel Coronavirus.

### **What is the treatment for coronaviruses?**

There is no specific treatment for coronavirus infections. Treatment consists of supportive care and relief of symptoms.

### **How can coronavirus infection be prevented?**

A vaccine to prevent coronavirus infection is not currently available. People should follow these tips to help prevent respiratory illnesses of any kind:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and help young children do the same. **This is the most effective way to prevent infection by the coronavirus.**

- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Wash your hands especially after coughing and sneezing, before and after caring for an ill person and before preparing foods and before eating.
- Cough into your sleeve or cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact (such as kissing, sharing cups or sharing eating utensils) with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as toys and doorknobs, especially if someone is sick.
- Stay home when you are sick, except when you need medical care.

### **Will wearing a mask protect me from getting infected?**

According to CDC, wearing a mask is not effective in preventing you from becoming infected. Handwashing is much more effective.

### **Should I wear a mask if I am sick?**

The World Health Organization indicates if you are sick that wearing a mask may help to limit the chances of spreading the virus. But they emphasize isolating yourself and washing your hands and surfaces is more effective to prevent further spread of the coronavirus.

**If you were in China in the last 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough or difficulty breathing, do the following:**

- Seek medical advice—call ahead before you go to a doctor’s office or emergency room. Tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.
- Avoid contact with others.

### **How can I learn more about coronaviruses?**

[Centers for Disease Control - Coronavirus](#)

[World Health Organization - Coronavirus](#)

[Health Canada - Coronavirus](#)