

Everything you need to know about Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The novel coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, is a respiratory disease that was first detected in China. It has now been detected in many countries, including in the United States.

Symptoms

Symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath and may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure.

Severity

Worldwide illnesses have ranged from mild to severe, including illness resulting in death. Older people and people with underlying health conditions seem to be at greater risk of serious illness. Those conditions include heart disease, lung disease, and cancer.

How it spreads

The virus is thought to spread between people in close contact (within 6 feet) and through droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Treatment

There are no medications specifically approved for COVID-19. People with coronavirus should be treated with supportive care to help relieve symptoms. Some severe cases require going to the hospital, particularly in the elderly or those who have underlying medical conditions.

What to do if you are sick

- 1** If you recently traveled to an area affected by COVID-19 transmission AND you feel sick, stay home and call your doctor immediately. Do not go to the doctor without calling first.
- 2** If you have a fever, cough, or shortness of breath, call your primary care provider.
- 3** If you do not have a primary care provider, call the Louisiana Department of Health hotline at 1-855-523-2652.
- 4** If you are severely ill and you think you need to go to the hospital, call 9-1-1 or go to an emergency room.

Prevent the spread of respiratory illness, including COVID-19.



Wash hands with soap and water often. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.



Stay home if you feel sick to prevent the spread of germs.



Cover your cough with your elbow to prevent the spread of germs.



If you are a senior or have a chronic medical condition, reconsider travel and large public gatherings.