

# Novel Coronavirus (NCoV-2019) in China

## 1. What is a coronavirus?

Coronavirus is a type of virus that causes diseases of varying severities, ranging from the common cold to more serious respiratory disease. A novel (new) coronavirus is a new strain of coronavirus that hasn't been identified before in humans.

## 2. Who gets coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are normally found in animals but can be spread to humans. Some coronaviruses are also spread from person to person. Recently, hundreds of cases of pneumonia associated with a novel coronavirus in Wuhan City have been identified.

## 3. How is coronavirus spread?

Human coronaviruses most commonly spread from an infected person to others through:

- 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, nose, or eyes before washing your hands
- rarely, fecal contamination

People who have traveled to Wuhan, China since December 1, 2019, could have been exposed to the virus. Seek medical care if you traveled to Wuhan and develop a fever or respiratory symptoms within 14 days of your return.

## 4. What are the symptoms of disease?

Symptoms include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing.
- Severe illness

Complications and outcomes of this virus are still being investigated.

## 5. How is novel coronavirus treated?

There is no specific treatment for illness caused by a novel coronavirus.  
**(continued on next page)**



### Key Points

- Novel coronavirus is a new virus that hasn't been identified before in humans
- Coronaviruses can be spread through close personal contact, or by touching an object of surface with the virus in it
- Use prevention measures that work to prevent other respiratory infections to prevent novel coronavirus
- Public Health is taking steps to prevent the spread of coronavirus in LA County.

### For more information:

Los Angeles County  
Department of Public Health

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/>

Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)

<http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/novel-coronavirus-2019.html>

World Health Organization

<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

Inventory Number (date finalized)

# Novel Coronavirus (NCoV-2019) in China

However, many of the symptoms can be treated. Treatment will be based on the patient's condition. There is no vaccine for novel coronavirus.

## 6. How can I protect myself when I travel?

Novel coronavirus infection is rare. Activities that can prevent the spread of more common respiratory infections, like the flu, can be effective at preventing the spread of novel coronavirus.

Travelers to Wuhan should:

- Avoid animals (alive or dead), animal markets, and products that come from animals (such as uncooked meat).
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Limit close contact, like kissing and sharing cups or utensils, with people who are sick.
- Clean surfaces that are touched often, like toys and doorknobs.

If you traveled to Wuhan and feel sick, you should:

- Stay home and avoid contact with others, except for seeking medical care.
- Seek medical care right away. Before you go to a doctor's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms.
- Don't travel while sick.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue in the trash.

Inventory Number (date finalized)

