



Respiratory Disease Caused by a Novel Coronavirus in China

Novel Coronavirus

- There is an outbreak of respiratory disease (which affects breathing) caused by a novel (new) virus centered in Wuhan, China. Possible infections with this new virus were reported in other regions of China and in some travelers from Wuhan to other countries, including the U.S. (the first U.S. case was reported in Washington state on January 21, 2020).
- The novel virus belongs to a family of viruses called “coronavirus.” There are other viruses in the coronavirus family that can cause illness in both humans and animals. These viruses can cause either mild illness like a cold or can make people very sick with pneumonia. This particular coronavirus has not been seen previously in humans.
- The virus is likely to be spread from person to person. Since the virus is very new, health authorities continue to carefully watch how this virus spreads. Visit [cdc.gov/wuhan](https://www.cdc.gov/wuhan) for the latest information.
- There is no vaccine or treatment available for this or other coronaviruses.

Symptoms of Infection With This Novel Coronavirus

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

How Does The Novel Coronavirus Spread?

- Since this virus is very new, health authorities continue to carefully watch how the virus spreads. It is probably spread from animals to humans, and it also likely spreads from person to person.

What Can Travelers Do to Protect Themselves?

Travelers to China should:

- Avoid animals (alive or dead), animal markets, and products that come from animals (such as uncooked meat).
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

If you recently traveled to China and have a fever, cough or shortness of breath, you should follow these steps until your illness resolves:

- 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.
- After you have been seen by a medical provider, stay home and avoid contact with others.
- Avoid travel on any public transportation (such as bus, subway, train or airplane).
- Wear a face mask if you need to leave your home.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

Many countries, including the United States, started checking travelers from Wuhan for fever and other symptoms of this infection, in January 2020. Individuals with these symptoms are being tested for common causes of respiratory infections, and some are also being screened for infection with the novel coronavirus using special lab tests. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the NYC Health Department are closely monitoring this outbreak.

Visit [cdc.gov/wuhan](https://www.cdc.gov/wuhan) for the latest information.