

WHAT IS 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS?

What is 2019 Novel Coronavirus?

The 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person to person. It was first identified during an outbreak investigation in Wuhan, China.

Can people in the U.S. get COVID-19?

Yes. COVID-19 is spreading from person to person in parts of the United States. Risk of infection with COVID-19 is higher for people who are in close contact with someone known to have COVID-19, for example healthcare workers, or household members. Other people at higher risk for infection are those who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

What are the symptoms of 2019 Novel Coronavirus?

Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of:

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath.

How does Novel Coronavirus spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but is now spreading from person to person:

- through close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands (the virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another within about 6 feet)
- through the air by coughing and sneezing
- through touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes
- CDC does not recommend the use of facemasks for the general public to prevent the spread of COVID-19
 - Those who are well should not wear a mask to protect themselves from COVID-19
 - Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others

How can I protect myself?

- Stay informed – CDC is updating its website daily with the latest information and advice for the public. Visit: www.cdc.gov.
- Take everyday preventive actions recommended to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:
 - Wash hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
 - Avoid contact with people who are sick
 - Stay home while you are sick and avoid contact with others
 - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing

Is there a vaccine?

There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to take everyday preventive actions, like avoiding close contact with people who are sick and washing your hands often.

What if I am planning to travel to an affected area?

- Check CDC Travel Health Notices
- If you must travel:
 - Avoid contact with sick people
 - Avoid animals (alive or dead), animal markets, and uncooked meat
 - Wash hands often or use hand sanitizer

What if I recently traveled to an affected area and feel sick?

- Seek medical care right away
- CALL BEFORE going to the doctor's office, urgent care, or hospital
- Avoid contact with others
- Stay home
- Cover coughs and sneezes
- Wash hands often or use hand sanitizer

Covid-19 Call Center

For more information, call the New Jersey Poison Information & Education System, **1-800-222-1222**