

## 2019 Novel Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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### **What is the 2019 Novel Coronavirus?**

The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a new virus that causes respiratory illness in people and can spread from person-to-person. This virus was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China in December 2019.

### **What is a “novel” coronavirus?**

A novel coronavirus is a new coronavirus that has not been previously known to cause infections in humans.

### **Is the 2019 Novel Coronavirus the same as SARS or MERS-Coronavirus?**

No. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others causing illness in animals.

The recently emerged 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is not the same as the coronaviruses that causes Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) or Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). There are ongoing investigations to learn more. This is a rapidly evolving situation and information will be updated as it becomes available.

### **What is UCSF Health doing to prepare for 2019 Novel Coronavirus?**

UCSF Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Prevention is partnering closely with the San Francisco, Alameda, and California Departments of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and has put the latest updates and recommendations into place.

The UCSF Health comprehensive plan includes screening and education for patients and healthcare personnel at the Parnassus, Mt. Zion, Mission Bay, and Oakland campuses.

UCSF Health is prepared to safely care for patients with the 2019 Novel Coronavirus.

### **How does the virus spread?**

This virus likely originally came from an animal source but now seems to be spreading between people. At this time, it's unclear how easily or sustainably this virus is spreading between people.

When person-to-person spread occurs with other coronaviruses, it mainly happens when an infected person coughs or sneezes and their respiratory droplets come into contact with the eyes, nose, and mouth of other people who are nearby, similar to how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread. There is also some concern that 2019-nCoV can spread from asymptomatic carriers.

### **Have there been cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus in the United States?**

This is a rapidly evolving situation and information may change daily.

For the latest number of cases in the United States please refer to the CDC website:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>

### **Will more people in the U.S. get the 2019 Novel Coronavirus?**

2019-nCoV is able to spread from person-to-person, although it is currently not clear how easily this happens.

At this time, this virus is not spreading in communities in the U.S., so the likelihood of someone in the U.S. getting sick with this virus is very low. Right now, the greatest risk of infection is for people in China or people who have traveled to China. The CDC continues to closely monitor the situation.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and information may change daily. The latest updates are available on CDC's 2019 Novel Coronavirus website:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

### **What are the symptoms of 2019 Novel Coronavirus infections?**

Patients with this virus have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms that can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

### **Who should be medically evaluated and tested for the 2019 Novel Coronavirus?**

If you develop a fever *or* symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or shortness of breath within 14 days after travel from China or if you have had close contact with someone diagnosed with 2019-nCoV infection, you should call ahead to a healthcare professional and mention your recent travel or close contact.

If you have had close contact with someone showing these symptoms who has recently traveled from China, you should call ahead to a healthcare professional and mention your close contact and their recent travel.

Your healthcare professional will work with the public health department and the CDC to determine if you need to be tested for 2019-nCoV. Currently all 2019-nCoV tests are being processed at the CDC.

### **What should I do if I recently traveled to China and get sick?**

If you were in China and start feeling sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing within 14 days after leaving China, you should get medical care.

Call the office of your health care provider before you go and tell them about your travel and your symptoms. They will give you instructions on how to get care without exposing other people to your illness.

While sick, avoid contact with people, don't go out, and delay any travel to reduce the possibility of spreading illness to others.

### **How can I protect myself?**

This virus is not widely spreading in the U.S. right now. The best way to prevent any respiratory infection, including 2019-nCoV and influenza (the flu), is to:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- If you have not received a flu vaccine consider getting one.

### **Is there a vaccine?**

There is currently no vaccine to protect against the 2019 novel coronavirus. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

### **Is there treatment?**

There is no specific antiviral treatment for the 2019 novel coronavirus. People with the 2019 novel coronavirus can seek medical care to help relieve symptoms.

### **Where can I get additional information?**

UCSF Health

<https://www.ucsf.edu/coronavirus>

UCSF Hospital Epidemiology and Infection Prevention

<https://infectioncontrol.ucsfmedicalcenter.org/ucsf-health-2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-resources>

San Francisco Department of Health (SFPDH)

<https://www.sfcdcp.org/infectious-diseases-a-to-z/coronavirus-2019-novel-coronavirus/>

California Department of Health (CDPH)

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/nCOV2019.aspx>

Centers for Disease Control (CDC)

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

World Health Organization (WHO)

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Adapted from CDC resources, last accessed 2/1/2020

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