

Facts & DETAILS

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

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What is COVID-19?

Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) is a novel (new) coronavirus first reported in Wuhan, China in December 2019. SARS-CoV-2 causes the human respiratory illness coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

Human coronaviruses were first identified in the mid-1960s. Seven sub-groups are known to infect people, including several that cause the common cold. MERS-CoV (which causes Middle East Respiratory Syndrome), SARS-CoV (which causes severe acute respiratory syndrome), and the 2019 novel coronavirus infect animals and have evolved to make people sick.

How common is COVID-19?

Over 1 million COVID-19 cases have been identified globally with symptoms ranging from mild to severe.

COVID-19 cases have been reported in the United States. Some cases have had history of travel from a country with ongoing COVID-19 transmission, but many have been linked to community spread. All United States cases have been identified through public health screening and monitoring systems.

How do people become infected?

Similar to other coronaviruses, COVID-19 is spread by droplets from an infected person's nose or mouth through coughing, sneezing, and talking.

A person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes.

Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by aerosolized droplets produced by talking.

What are the signs and symptoms of COVID-19?

Reports show that COVID-19 causes mild to severe respiratory illness. Some people have died from the infection. Symptoms include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. Some patients have developed pneumonia.

After exposure, COVID-19 symptoms typically appear within 14 days.

How long can a person spread COVID-19?

Recent studies have suggested that someone with COVID-19 may be contagious before they show symptoms. However, they become most contagious when symptoms develop.

Who is at risk for COVID-19?

Anyone who is exposed to the virus can become infected. Adults are most affected and people over age 60 and adults who also have other health conditions are at greater risk for severe illness.



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Sedgwick County Corporate Communications Office

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How is COVID-19 treated?

COVID-19 is caused by a virus, so antibiotics won't work. There is no specific treatment for COVID-19.

How can you prevent COVID-19?

There is no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. At this time, the CDC recommends people avoid all non-essential international travel and travel to states with community spread. This is an evolving situation so please check the CDC website regularly at <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel>.

You can prevent infection by doing the following:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Don't share drinking cups or utensils with other people
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Practice social distancing by keeping at least 6 feet between you and others
- Stay home when you are sick

If you have recently returned from an area with COVID-19 transmission under a CDC travel advisory or have been in contact with someone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19, please contact the Sedgwick County Health Department at 316-660-7300.

What should you do if you recently traveled to an area with COVID-19 transmission and got sick?

If you were in a state or country with ongoing COVID-19 transmission in the past 14 days and feel sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing, call your medical provider immediately, and tell them about your travel and your symptoms.

A list of affected countries can be found on the CDC's COVID-19 Information for Travel website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>).

For More Information:

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