

novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

what is the new coronavirus?

At the end of 2019, a new type of coronavirus, called COVID-19 (previously 2019-nCoV), began making people sick in China. The virus came from animals and moved to people, probably at a market selling live seafood and animals.

Most of the time, coronaviruses don't spread from animals to people. When they do, it can take health experts a while to learn the details of the virus and how it spreads.

Coronavirus has several strains, just like the flu. Most only cause mild to moderate illness, similar to a cold. If your child is diagnosed with coronavirus, it does not mean it is this new coronavirus COVID-19. It is probably an older, more common version. Ask your doctor to be sure.

what are the signs & symptoms of the new coronavirus?

COVID-19 causes a fever, cough and trouble breathing. Symptoms are a bit like those caused by a cold or the flu. The virus can be more serious in some people, especially if they are sick or weak to begin with.

how does coronavirus spread?

The new COVID-19 spreads from person to person. It seems to take 2 to 14 days from the time someone is exposed to the virus until he or she starts to feel sick.

is coronavirus dangerous to children?

Experts are still learning about this new virus. We don't yet know how it affects children.

If your child is sick with a fever (over 100.4 degrees) and has respiratory symptoms, and you have been in contact with people traveling from places with the new coronavirus, call your doctor.

how is coronavirus treated?

To date, most people with coronavirus, including children, do not have serious problems. After talking to a doctor, most get better with rest and fluids. People who are very ill get care in a hospital with breathing help, IV fluids and other treatments.

how can I protect myself from coronavirus?

As with other viruses, the best ways to protect yourself and your family are:

- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home if you are sick.
- Practice good respiratory hygiene – sneeze or cough into your arm or a tissue and dispose of the tissue immediately.
- Wash your hands well and often. Wash for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or use hand sanitizer. Teach your kids to do the same

(continued on reverse)



Antibiotics can't treat viruses so they won't help with coronavirus. Medicines for the flu don't work either because coronavirus is different from the flu virus.

Experts around the world are studying and tracking the new coronavirus. Countries like the United States are taking steps to prevent the virus from spreading. This means identifying people who have the virus and anyone they come into contact with.

where can I learn more about coronavirus?

Check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website for up-to-date information on COVID-19.



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