

# Coronavirus – About COVID-19

Information from: <https://cdc.gov>

## Take steps to protect yourself



Clean your hands often

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
  - If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol**. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.



Avoid close contact

- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick
- Put **distance between yourself and other people** if COVID-19 is spreading in your community. This is especially important for [people who are at higher risk of getting very sick](#).

## Take steps to protect others



Stay home if you're sick

- **Stay home** if you are sick, except to get medical care. Learn [what to do if you are sick](#).



Cover coughs and sneezes

- **Cover your mouth and nose** with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.
- **Throw used tissues** in the trash.
- Immediately **wash your hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Wear a facemask if you are sick

- **If you are sick:** You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) and before you enter a healthcare provider's office. If you are not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then you should do your best to cover your coughs and sneezes, and people who are caring for you should wear a facemask if they enter your room. [Learn what to do if you are sick](#).

- **If you are NOT sick:** You do not need to wear a facemask unless you are caring for someone who is sick (and they are not able to wear a facemask). Facemasks may be in short supply and they should be saved for caregivers.



Clean and disinfect

- **Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.** This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
  - **If surfaces are dirty, clean them:** Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.



Stay home except to get medical care

- **Stay home:** People who are mildly ill with COVID-19 are able to isolate at home during their illness. You should restrict activities outside your home, except for getting medical care.
  - **Avoid public areas:** Do not go to work, school, or public areas.
  - **Avoid public transportation:** Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.



Separate yourself from other people and animals in your home

- **Stay away from others:** As much as possible, you should stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available.
  - **Limit contact with pets & animals:** You should restrict contact with pets and other animals while you are sick with COVID-19, just like you would

around other people. Although there have not been reports of pets or other animals becoming sick with COVID-19, it is still recommended that people sick with COVID-19 limit contact with animals until more information is known about the virus.

- When possible, have another member of your household care for your animals while you are sick. If you are sick with COVID-19, avoid contact with your pet, including petting, snuggling, being kissed or licked, and sharing food. If you must care for your pet or be around animals while you are sick, wash your hands before and after you interact with pets and wear a facemask. See [COVID-19 and Animals](#) for more information.
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### Information for Household Members and Caregivers of Someone who is Sick



Call ahead before visiting your doctor

- **Call ahead:** If you have a medical appointment, call the healthcare provider and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19. This will help the healthcare provider's office take steps to keep other people from getting infected or exposed.



Wear a facemask if you are sick

- **If you are sick:** You should wear a facemask when you are around other people (e.g., sharing a room or vehicle) or pets and before you enter a healthcare provider's office.
- **If you are caring for others:** If the person who is sick is not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live with the person who is sick should not stay in the same room with them, or they should wear a facemask if they enter a room with the person who is sick.



### Cover your coughs and sneezes

- **Cover:** Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- **Dispose:** Throw used tissues in a lined trash can.
- **Wash hands:** Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or, if soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



### Clean your hands often

- **Wash hands:** Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- **Hand sanitizer:** If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry.
- **Soap and water:** Soap and water are the best option if hands are visibly dirty.
- **Avoid touching:** Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

### Handwashing Tips



### Avoid sharing personal household items

- **Do not share:** You should not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people or pets in your home.

- **Wash thoroughly after use:** After using these items, they should be washed thoroughly with soap and water.



Clean all “high-touch” surfaces everyday

- **Clean and disinfect:** Practice routine cleaning of high touch surfaces.

High touch surfaces include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables.

- **Disinfect areas with bodily fluids:** Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them.
- **Household cleaners:** Use a household cleaning spray or wipe, according to the label instructions. Labels contain instructions for safe and effective use of the cleaning product including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.

### Complete disinfection guidance



Monitor your symptoms

- **Seek medical attention:** Seek prompt medical attention if your illness is worsening (e.g., difficulty breathing).
  - **Call your doctor:** Before seeking care, call your healthcare provider and tell them that you have, or are being evaluated for, COVID-19.
  - **Wear a facemask when sick:** Put on a facemask before you enter the facility. These steps will help the healthcare provider’s office to keep other people in the office or waiting room from getting infected or exposed.
- **Alert health department:** Ask your healthcare provider to call the local or state health department. Persons who are placed under active monitoring

or facilitated self-monitoring should follow instructions provided by their local health department or occupational health professionals, as appropriate.

**Call 911 if you have a medical emergency:** If you have a medical emergency and need to call 911, notify the dispatch personnel that you have, or are being evaluated for COVID-19. If possible, put on a facemask before emergency medical services arrive.



#### Discontinuing home isolation

- **Stay at home until instructed to leave:** Patients with confirmed COVID-19 should remain under home isolation precautions until the risk of secondary transmission to others is thought to be low.

- **Talk to your healthcare provider:** The decision to discontinue home isolation precautions should be made on a case-by-case basis, in

consultation with healthcare providers and state and local health departments.