



United Nations



COVID-19 Response






























Home	Secretary-General	Stories	UN News	For UN Personnel »	For Member States	UN System
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|| The United Nations flag flies in Juba, South Sudan during a commemoration of the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers.
UN Photo/JC McIlwaine

General FAQs

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- How does COVID-19 spread? 
- What are the symptoms of COVID-19? 
- How do I know if it is COVID-19 or just the common flu? 
- Can the virus that causes COVID-19 be transmitted through the air? 
- What can I do to protect myself and prevent the spread of disease? 
- I am well and asymptomatic. Should I use a mask? 
- How likely am I to catch COVID-19? 
- Are pregnant women more susceptible to the COVID-19 virus and will it harm the fetus? 
- What is the risk of my child becoming sick with COVID-19? 
- Are the symptoms of COVID-19 different in children than in adults? 
- Should I worry about COVID-19? 
- Who is at risk of developing severe illness? 
- Are antibiotics effective in preventing or treating COVID-19? 
- Are there any medicines or therapies that can prevent or cure COVID-19? 
- Is there a vaccine, drug or treatment for COVID-19? 
- Should I wear a mask to protect myself from catching the COVID-19 virus? 
- Until when should I wear a mask after recovering from an illness with respiratory symptoms? 
- I am looking after someone who is ill with suspect or confirmed COVID-19. What precautions should I take? 
- How long is the incubation and transmission period for COVID-19? 
- Can humans become infected with the COVID-19 from an animal source? 
- How long does the virus survive on surfaces? 
- How can I get tested for COVID-19? 
- What alternatives do I have if there are no hand sanitizers available? Can I use other alcohol like ethyl or liquor? 
- Can people who recover from COVID-19 be infected again? 
- Is it safe to receive a package from an area where COVID-19 has been reported? 
- Is there a connection between COVID -19 and environment temperature? 
- Can I catch the virus from being in an enclosed space (i.e. bus, subway) in close proximity to someone who doesn't have respiratory symptoms? 
- Should I start avoiding people of Asian descent and their businesses? 
- When should we identify ourselves as "being sick" and stay at home? 

Answers to some UN-specific questions

- My colleague is sick but he/she insists that it is just the common cold and is reluctant to work from home. What steps can we take to enforce "staying at home when not well" amongst staff? 
- What can we do if we don't have any hand sanitizers in the office building? 
- What is the process for evaluating the criticality of official travels and meetings? 
- Does the UN have any specific guidelines for meeting / mass gathering organizers and participants during the COVID-19 outbreak? 
- I plan to travel to / have a meeting in countries or territories currently experiencing local transmission of COVID-19. Should I cancel this travel/meeting? 
- What is the protocol for staff members returning to work after visiting COVID-19 affected countries (i.e., those with ongoing transmission)? 
- I just returned from travel to a country/area experiencing local transmission of COVID-19. I am well and have no symptoms. Can I go back to the workplace? 
- What about self-quarantining after returning from an area/country of high prevalence? 
- What are the latest protocols and guidance for Medical Evacuation of staff members with severe respiratory infections related to COVID-19? 
- Have medical insurance related questions? 
- Are you UN personnel in New York? 

*UNCTs and UN peace operations will decide on measures locally.



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