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Coronavirus

Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that can cause either mild illness, such as a cold, or can make people sick with pneumonia.

If you are a medical provider, see our [2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) — Information for Providers](#) page.

2019 Novel Coronavirus

Recently, a novel (new) coronavirus was detected in thousands of people worldwide. The infection, called COVID-19, can be spread from person to person. A "novel coronavirus" is a strain that has not been previously found in humans.

Twelve people have been diagnosed with this novel coronavirus in New York City (see up-to-date case count). If you are experiencing fever, cough and/or shortness of breath, and traveled to an area where COVID-19 is spreading, call or go to your health care provider. Your provider will work with the Health Department to determine if you need COVID-19 testing.

There are no specific vaccines or treatments available for this novel coronavirus, or any other coronavirus. However, medication and vaccine research is underway.

If you are planning any travel outside the U.S., visit CDC's [Travelers' Health](#) webpage for the latest travel health notices.

- [Novel Coronavirus Outbreak Factsheet \(PDF, March 5\)](#)

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Symptoms

Symptoms of COVID-19 can include fever, cough and/or shortness of breath. An infection can result in death, but that is a rare outcome.

Prevention

You should go about your daily life, but take the same precautions that you would during cold and flu season:

- Get your flu shot — it's not too late. Although the flu shot will not protect you from COVID-19, it will help prevent the flu which has similar symptoms to this coronavirus.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or sleeve when sneezing or coughing — do not use your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Do not touch your face with unwashed hands.
- Stay home if you are not feeling well.

Returning Travelers

If you recently returned to New York from China, Iran, South Korea, Italy or Japan, review the following documents for information about self-monitoring and how and when you can go back to work or school.

- FAQ: Home Self-Monitoring for Novel Coronavirus in New York City (PDF)
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- Home Self-Monitoring Flyer (PDF)
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- Doctor's Note to Excuse Absence from Work or School (PDF)
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Case Count in NYC

Testing to determine whether the pending cases are confirmed as positive or negative can take hours or days, depending on what lab performs the test.

As of March 7, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.:

People Under Investigation in NYC

Positive	12 *
Negative	86
Pending	21
Total	119

*This count includes one non-NYC resident tested and treated in NYC.

Additional Resources for Coronavirus Disease 2019

- Commissioner's Order To Test Educators, First Responders and Health Care Workers for COVID-19 (PDF, March 5)
 - Testing Criteria for Educators, First Responders and Health Care Workers Employed by NYC (PDF, March 5)
- Travel Poster (PDF)
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- Stay Healthy Poster (PDF)
Other Languages: 繁體中文 | 简体中文 | Español | Русский | Kreyòl ayisyen | 한국어 | বাংলা | Italiano | Polski | العربية | יידיש | Français | فارسی | اردو | 日本語
- Cover Your Cough (PDF)
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- Wash Your Hands Poster for Adults (PDF)
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Guidance for Communities

- Letter to Community Partners from Commissioner of Health (PDF, February 19)
- Commercial or Residential Building General Disinfection Guidance (PDF, March 5)
- Non-Healthcare Setting General Disinfection Guidance (PDF, March 6)
- Homeless Shelter Interim Guidance (PDF, March 4)
- Congregate Setting Interim Guidance (PDF, March 4)
- Schools and Families Guidance (PDF, February 27)
- Business and Employer Guidance (PDF, February 14)
 - Update for NYC Businesses (PDF, March 5)
- College and University Interim Guidance (PDF, February 9)

Other Coronaviruses

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▶ MERS and SARS