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URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/covid19coronavirussdisease2019.html>

COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019)

Also called: Coronavirus, COVID-19

COVID-19 (coronavirus disease 2019) is an illness caused by a virus. This virus is a coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2. It spreads when a person who has the infection breathes out droplets and very small particles that contain the virus. On this page, you'll find links to resources on important issues such as symptoms, risks, and how you can protect yourself and your family.

We also have pages on:

- COVID-19 testing [<https://medlineplus.gov/covid19testing.html>]
- COVID-19 vaccines [<https://medlineplus.gov/covid19vaccines.html>]
- Post-COVID conditions (long COVID) [<https://medlineplus.gov/postcovidconditionslongcovid.html>]

Start Here

- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) [<https://www.cdc.gov/covid/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Symptoms

- Post-COVID Conditions (Long COVID): MedlinePlus Health Topic [<https://medlineplus.gov/postcovidconditionslongcovid.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/postcovidconditionslongcovid.html>]
- Symptoms of COVID-19 [<https://www.cdc.gov/covid/signs-symptoms/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Diagnosis and Tests

- COVID-19 Testing: MedlinePlus Health Topic [<https://medlineplus.gov/covid19testing.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/covid19testing.html>]

Prevention and Risk Factors

- Community Respirators and Masks [https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/ppe/php/community-respirators-masks/?CDC_AAref_Val=https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/publicppe/community-ppe.html] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- COVID-19 Vaccines: MedlinePlus Health Topic [<https://medlineplus.gov/covid19vaccines.html>]  (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/covid19vaccines.html>]
- COVID-19: How to Protect Yourself and Others [<https://www.cdc.gov/covid/prevention/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- How COVID-19 Spreads [<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/how-covid-spreads.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- People with Certain Medical Conditions and COVID-19 Risk Factors [<https://www.cdc.gov/covid/risk-factors/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

- Preventing Respiratory Viruses [<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/prevention/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Preventing Spread of Respiratory Viruses When You're Sick [<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/prevention/precautions-when-sick.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Risk Factors for Severe Illness from Respiratory Viruses [<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/risk-factors/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Treatments and Therapies

- COVID-19 Symptoms and Complementary Approaches: What You Need To Know [<https://www.nccih.nih.gov/health/covid-19-symptoms-and-complementary-approaches-what-you-need-to-know>]
 (National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.nccih.nih.gov/health/espanol/covid-19-y-los-tratamientos-alternativos-lo-que-usted-debe-saber>]
- Know Your Treatment Options for COVID-19 [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/know-your-treatment-options-covid-19>]
 (Food and Drug Administration)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/articulos-para-el-consumidor-en-espanol/conozca-sus-opciones-de-tratamiento-contra-el-covid-19>]
- Treatment Locator: Find COVID-19 Medications [<https://treatments.hhs.gov/>]
(Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response)
Also in Spanish [<https://treatments-es.hhs.gov/>]
- Types of COVID-19 Treatment [<https://www.cdc.gov/covid/treatment/index.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Related Issues

- About MIS (Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome) [<https://www.cdc.gov/mis/about/>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- Coronavirus and Your Health Coverage: Get the Basics [<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/c2c-covid-overview.pdf>]
 (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services) - PDF
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cms.gov/files/document/c2c-covid-overview-spanish.pdf>]
- COVID-19 and Breastfeeding [<https://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding-special-circumstances/hcp/illnesses-conditions/covid-19.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
- COVID-19: What People with Cancer Should Know [<https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/coronavirus/coronavirus-cancer-patient-information>]
 (National Cancer Institute)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cancer.gov/espanol/cancer/coronavirus/coronavirus-informacion-personas-con-cancer>]
- Debunking COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Myths [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/coronavirus-myths/art-20485720?p=1>] (Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.mayoclinic.org/es/diseases-conditions/coronavirus/in-depth/coronavirus-myths/art-20485720?p=1>]
- HIV and COVID-19 [<https://hivinfo.nih.gov/understanding-hiv/fact-sheets/hiv-and-covid-19>]
 (National Institutes of Health, Office of AIDS Research)
Also in Spanish [<https://hivinfo.nih.gov/es/understanding-hiv/fact-sheets/el-vih-y-el-covid-19>]
- Is It Flu, COVID-19, Allergies, or a Cold? [<https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/2022/01/it-flu-covid-19-allergies-or-cold>]
 (National Institutes of Health)
Also in Spanish [<https://salud.nih.gov/recursos-de-salud/nih-noticias-de-salud/es-gripe-covid-19-alergias-o-un-resfriado>]
- Ivermectin and COVID-19 [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/ivermectin-and-covid-19>]
(Food and Drug Administration)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.fda.gov/consumers/articulos-para-el-consumidor-en-espanol/la-ivermectina-y-el-covid-19>]
- Pulse Oximetry [<https://medlineplus.gov/lab-tests/pulse-oximetry/>]
 (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/pruebas-de-laboratorio/pulsioximetria/>]
- Q&A for Consumers: Hand Sanitizers and COVID-19 [<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/information-drug-class/qa-consumers-hand-sanitizers-and-covid-19>]
(Food and Drug Administration)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.fda.gov/drugs/information-drug-class/preguntas-y-respuestas-para-los-consumidores-los-desinfectantes-para-las-manos-y-el-covid-19>]
- Respiratory Viruses and People with Disabilities [<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/risk-factors/people-with-disabilities.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

- What You Should Know about COVID-19 and Pets [<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/animals/pets.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Specifics

- About Reinfection Covid-19 [<https://www.cdc.gov/covid/about/reinfection.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Statistics and Research

- United States COVID-19 Deaths, Emergency Department (ED) Visits, and Test Positivity by Geographic Area [https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#maps_percent-covid-deaths] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Clinical Trials

- Joining a Study [<https://preventcovid.org/join-us/>] (COVID-19 Prevention Network)

Journal Articles

References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: Experiences and outcomes of older adults with obesity transitioning from gym-... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40731316>]
- Article: Safety and immunogenicity of fractional COVID-19 vaccine doses in Nigerian adults:... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40730836>]
- Article: Intermittent fasting and a no-sugar diet for Long COVID symptoms: a... [<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/40730806>]
- COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019) -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22COVID-19%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+1+Year%22+%5Bedat%5D+AND+%28patient+education+handout%5Bpt%5D+OR+guideline%5Bpt%5D+OR+clinical+trial%5Bpt%5D%29++NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Find an Expert

- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [<https://www.niaid.nih.gov/>] 

Children

- Coronavirus (COVID-19): What to Do If Your Child Is Sick [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/coronavirus-child-is-sick.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/coronavirus-child-is-sick.html>]
- COVID-19 [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/coronavirus.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/coronavirus.html>]
- COVID-19 and Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/pmis.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/pmis.html>]
- COVID-19: What Are Variants? [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/covid-delta-variant.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/covid-delta-variant.html>]
- Is It a Cold, the Flu, an RSV Infection, or COVID-19? [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/flu-vs-cold.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/flu-vs-cold.html>]

Women

- COVID-19: Pregnancy FAQs [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/coronavirus-pregnancy.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/coronavirus-pregnancy.html>]

• Is it Safe to Breastfeed if I Have COVID-19? [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/coronavirus-breastfeeding.html>] (Nemours Foundation)

Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/coronavirus-breastfeeding.html>]

• Respiratory Viruses and Pregnancy [<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/risk-factors/pregnancy.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Older Adults

• Respiratory Viruses and Older Adults [<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/risk-factors/older-adults.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)

Patient Handouts

• COVID-19 - what to do when you are sick [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000975.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000975.htm>]

• COVID-19 and face masks [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000974.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000974.htm>]

• How to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000973.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000973.htm>]

• Mild to moderate COVID-19 - discharge [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000976.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

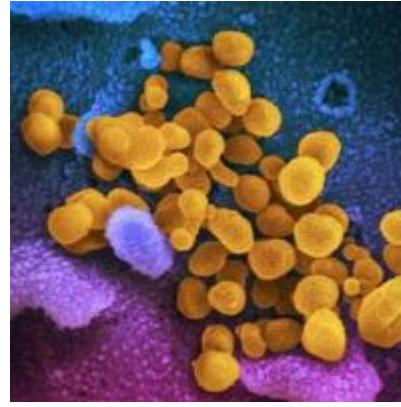
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000976.htm>]

• Severe COVID-19 - discharge [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000978.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000978.htm>]

• What to do after exposure to COVID-19 [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000977.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)

Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/patientinstructions/000977.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Coronavirus [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007767.htm>]

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007768.htm>]

COVID-19 - what to do when you are sick [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000975.htm>]

COVID-19 and face masks [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000974.htm>]

COVID-19 symptoms [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007770.htm>]

COVID-19 vaccine - what you need to know [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007804.htm>]

How to protect yourself and others from COVID-19 [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000973.htm>]

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000723.htm>]

Mild to moderate COVID-19 - discharge [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000976.htm>]

Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/007192.htm>]

Severe COVID-19 - discharge [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000978.htm>]

What to do after exposure to COVID-19 [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/patientinstructions/000977.htm>]

Related Health Topics

Cleaning, Disinfecting, and Sanitizing [<https://medlineplus.gov/cleaningdisinfectingandsanitizing.html>]

COVID-19 Testing [<https://medlineplus.gov/covid19testing.html>]

COVID-19 Vaccines [<https://medlineplus.gov/covid19vaccines.html>]

Germs and Hygiene [<https://medlineplus.gov/germsandhygiene.html>]

Pneumonia [<https://medlineplus.gov/pneumonia.html>]

Post-COVID Conditions (Long COVID) [<https://medlineplus.gov/postcovidconditionslongcovid.html>]

Traveler's Health [<https://medlineplus.gov/travelershealth.html>]

Viral Infections [<https://medlineplus.gov/viralinfections.html>]

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019)* is the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/>]

Other Languages

Find health information in languages other than English

[<https://medlineplus.gov/languages/covid19coronavirussdisease2019.html>] on *COVID-19 (Coronavirus Disease 2019)*

NIH MedlinePlus Magazine

Getting an Accurate Read on Pulse Oximeters [<https://magazine.medlineplus.gov/article/getting-an-accurate-read-on-pulse-oximeters>]

Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children [<https://magazine.medlineplus.gov/article/multisystem-inflammatoty-syndrome-in-children>]

Your COVID-19 Glossary [<https://magazine.medlineplus.gov/article/your-covid-19-glossary>]

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