

Coronavirus

Frequently Asked Questions

What is coronavirus?

Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a respiratory illness caused by a virus that was first identified in China and it is highly contagious. The virus can be similar to the common cold, but some cases are more severe and could potentially be life-threatening.

What are the symptoms?

The most common symptoms are fever, cough, and shortness of breath, but occasionally symptoms are more severe. If you develop these or any flu-like symptoms, contact your doctor to talk about your symptoms, travel history, and recent contact with anyone who may be infected with the virus.

What is the current risk in Canada?

While the risk outside China is currently low, additional cases have been identified in a growing number of other international locations. It is likely that person-to-person spread will continue, so more cases are expected to be identified.

How is coronavirus spread?

The virus can spread from person to person primarily through coughing and sneezing. Washing hands, cleaning commonly touched surfaces, and avoiding sick people are the best ways to prevent the illness from spreading.

How do I know if I'm at risk of contracting coronavirus?

You may be at greater risk if you have recently traveled to regions where there are currently outbreaks of the virus or if you come into contact with someone who has the virus. Symptoms typically appear within 2 to 14 days after exposure.

Is there a vaccine?

There is no vaccine for coronavirus at this time.

What should I do if I think I have coronavirus?

Because it is a virus, there is no cure, but your doctor can evaluate your risk and help with next steps when necessary.

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