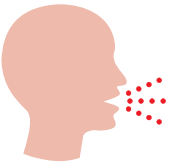




## WHAT IS NOVEL CORONAVIRUS / COVID-19?

Novel (meaning “new”) coronavirus is a virus strain that has only spread in people since December 2019. Health experts are concerned because little is known about this new virus and it has the potential to cause severe illness in some people.



### HOW DOES NOVEL CORONAVIRUS SPREAD?

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- **Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).**
- **Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.**

These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

People who have been diagnosed with novel coronavirus have symptoms that may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms may include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

### HOW SEVERE IS NOVEL CORONAVIRUS?

Health experts are still learning about the illness caused by the new virus. People infected have had illness that has ranged from mild (like a common cold) to severe pneumonia that requires medical care in a hospital. So far, deaths have been reported mainly in older adults who had other health conditions.

### HOW CAN I PREVENT GETTING NOVEL CORONAVIRUS?

If you are traveling overseas (to China, but also to other places) follow the CDC’s guidance at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>

Right now the novel coronavirus has not been spreading widely in the United States, so there are no additional precautions recommended for the general public.

Steps you can take to prevent spread of flu and the common cold will also help prevent coronavirus:

- **Wash hands often with soap and water. If not available, use hand sanitizer.**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands**
- **Avoid contact with people who are sick**
- **Stay home while you are sick and avoid contact with others**
- **Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing**

Currently there are no vaccines available to prevent novel coronavirus infections.



### HOW IS NOVEL CORONAVIRUS TREATED?



There is no specific treatment for coronavirus. Most people with mild coronavirus illness will recover on their own by drinking plenty of fluids, resting, and taking pain and fever medications. However, some people develop pneumonia and need medical care or treatment in a hospital.

For more information: <https://www.nj.gov/health>