

Coronavirus Disease 2019” (abbreviated “COVID-19”).

Pandemic: A Global Outbreak

Symptoms

For confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death.

Symptoms can include:

- **Fever**
- **Cough**
- **Shortness of breath**

CDC believes at this time that symptoms of COVID-19 may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure. This is based on what has been seen previously as the incubation period of [MERS-CoV](#) viruses.

Prevention & Treatment

Prevention

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- **Avoid close contact with people who are sick.**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.**
- **Stay home when you are sick.**
- **Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.**
- **Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.**
- **Follow CDC’s recommendations for using a facemask.**

- **CDC does not recommend that people who are well wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.**
- **Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19** to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for [health workers](#) and [people who are taking care of someone in close settings](#) (at home or in a health care facility).
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.**
 - If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.

Prevention

- There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms. For severe cases, treatment should include care to support vital organ functions.
- People who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.