How to Protect Yourself and Others


**Know how it spreads**

- 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.**
  - 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, sneezes or talks.
    - These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
    - Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

**Everyone should**

**Clean your hands often**

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.** Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.

**Avoid close contact**

- **Limit contact with others as much as possible.**
- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
- **Put distance between yourself and other people.**
  - Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.
  - This is especially important for **people who are at higher risk of getting very sick.** [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-at-higher-risk.html)
You could spread COVID-19 to others even if you do not feel sick.

Everyone should wear a mask in public settings and when around people not living in their household, especially when social distancing is difficult to maintain.

- Masks should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.

The mask is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.

Do NOT use a facemask meant for a healthcare worker.

Continue to keep about 6 feet between yourself and others. The mask is not a substitute for social distancing.

Always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow.

Throw used tissues in the trash.

Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html

If surfaces are dirty, clean them: Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.

Then, use a household disinfectant. You can see a list of EPA-registered household disinfectants here.

cdc.gov/coronavirus