

COVID-19 FAST FACTS



"Keeping New Yorkers safe is my top priority. Know the facts about novel coronavirus and help our friends and neighbors stay healthy and informed."

Assemblymember Al Taylor, District 71

1 WHAT IS CORONAVIRUS?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause mild illnesses like a cold, to more severe conditions like pneumonia.

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) are two other examples of coronaviruses.

COVID-19 is a new previously unidentified coronavirus.

2 WHAT IS THE SOURCE?

COVID-19 was first detected in Wuhan City, China last year.

Since then infections have been reported in numerous countries, including the U.S. For an updated list of affected areas, visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

3 HOW IS IT SPREAD?

According to the CDC, the virus that causes COVID-19 spreads from person-to-person. Someone who is actively sick with COVID-19 can spread it to others. However, it is currently unclear how easily it spreads.

4 WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Commonly reported symptoms include fever, cough, mild to severe respiratory illness and shortness of breath.

Most people (80%) infected with COVID-19 will feel like they have a bad cold or the flu. Some will require hospitalization.

5 AM I AT RISK?

People in communities where COVID-19 virus infections have been reported are at a higher, though still relatively low, risk of exposure.

Those who are at most risk for severe illness are elderly or already have other health conditions.

If you or someone you've been in close contact with has recently traveled to an affected area, monitor yourself for symptoms and call or visit a doctor if you show any signs.

6 WHAT SHOULD NEW YORKERS DO?

At this time New Yorkers should be alert but not alarmed.

If you feel sick, stay home. Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

7 AND INTERNATIONAL TRAVELERS?

Avoid any nonessential travel to affected areas. If you have recently traveled outside of the US and show no symptoms, go about your day but monitor yourself for any symptoms.

If you experience symptoms and your doctor tells you to stay home, avoid going in public, to school or to work until you have been fever-free for at least 72 hours without the use of fever reducing drugs like Tylenol or ibuprofen.

8 HOW CAN I HELP MY COMMUNITY?

Help your friends and neighbors by maintaining healthy habits, obtaining information about COVID-19 from trusted sources like the NYC Health Department, CDC, and the WHO, and fighting back against harmful misinformation and xenophobic rhetoric.