



## Respiratory Disease Caused by a Novel Coronavirus in China

### Novel (New) Coronavirus

- There is an outbreak of respiratory disease (which affects breathing) caused by a new virus centered in Wuhan, China. Infections with this new virus have been reported in other regions of China and in some travelers from Wuhan to other countries, including the U.S.
- The new virus belongs to a family of viruses called “coronavirus.” These viruses can cause either mild illness like a cold or can make people very sick with pneumonia. This particular coronavirus has not been seen previously in humans.
- The virus is likely to be spread from person to person.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the NYC Health Department are closely monitoring this outbreak. Visit [nyc.gov/health/coronavirus](http://nyc.gov/health/coronavirus) or [cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://cdc.gov/coronavirus) for the latest information.

### Symptoms of Infection With This Novel Coronavirus

Fever, cough or shortness of breath

### How Does the New Coronavirus Spread?

The initial cases suggested that the virus spread from animals to people, but there is evidence that it is spreading person-to-person. At this time, it’s unclear how easily the virus spreads between people.

### Who Is at Risk for This Novel Coronavirus?

Right now, the risk to New Yorkers is low. If you were recently in China and have a fever, cough or shortness of breath, call your primary health care provider. If you do not have a primary health care provider, visit [nychealthandhospitals.org](http://nychealthandhospitals.org) for help finding a provider in NYC.

### What Should New Yorkers Do?

Go about your daily lives, but take the same precautions that you would during cold and flu season.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- If you feel sick, stay home.
- If you were recently in China and have a fever, cough or shortness of breath, call your health care provider right away.

- If you do not feel sick, commute within NYC and travel around the U.S. as you normally would.

At this time, New Yorkers **do not** need to:

- Limit travel within the city.
- Wear a face mask if you are healthy. Face masks are only recommended if directed by a health care provider.
- Change anything about where you get your food or how you prepare it.
- Avoid public gatherings and public transportation.

### **Should I Be Tested for Novel Coronavirus?**

If you develop a fever, cough or shortness of breath within 14 days after travel from China, you should call ahead to a health care provider and mention your recent travel and symptoms. If you have had close contact with someone showing these symptoms, who has recently traveled from this area, you should call ahead to a health care provider and mention your close contact and their recent travel. Your health care professional will work with the NYC Health Department to determine if you need to be tested for this novel coronavirus. If you do not have a primary health care provider, visit [nychealthandhospitals.org](http://nychealthandhospitals.org) for help finding a provider in NYC.

### **Does the Health Department Recommend the Use of Face Masks in the Community to Prevent Novel Coronavirus Transmission?**

No. The NYC Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) do not currently recommend the use of face masks among the general public. While limited person-to-person spread among close contacts has been detected, this virus is not currently spreading in the community in the U.S.

### **What Can International Travelers Do to Protect Themselves?**

Avoid any nonessential travel to China. Visit [cdc.gov/travel](http://cdc.gov/travel) for the latest travel health notices.

If you were recently in China and have a fever, cough or shortness of breath, you should follow these steps until your illness resolves:

- Seek medical care right away. Before you go to a health care provider's office or emergency room, call ahead and tell them about your recent travel and your symptoms. Wear a face mask if you need to leave your home.
- After you have been seen by a health care provider, stay home and avoid contact with others.
- Avoid travel on any public transportation (such as bus, subway, train or airplane).
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

Visit [nyc.gov/health/coronavirus](http://nyc.gov/health/coronavirus) or [cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://cdc.gov/coronavirus) for the latest information.