

## COVID-19 Symptoms and Testing

### What is a coronavirus?

A coronavirus is a virus that can cause respiratory illness. Some coronaviruses can cause the common cold. Recent notable coronavirus infections include:

- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)
- Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)
- Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), which causes the disease known as COVID-19

### What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a coronavirus. This is a new disease. Anyone can get COVID-19.

### Symptoms may be mild and non-specific or 'flu-like', to include:

- Fever
- Chills
- Headache
- Dry cough
- Runny nose
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite

### Some warnings signs of severe infection may include:

- Shortness of breath or a hard time breathing
- Persistent chest pain
- Severe cough
- Confusion or excessive sleepiness

### Other symptoms may include:

- New loss of taste or smell
- Chills
- Diarrhea, Nausea
- Abdominal pain

Many people who have COVID-19 may experience mild or no symptoms. People with certain existing medical conditions and older adults may have a more severe experience if they get COVID-19 and may need to be hospitalized.

### Is there a test for COVID-19?

There are three kinds of tests for COVID-19: molecular/PCR, antigen, and antibody.

- The molecular/PCR tests tell you if you have COVID-19 infection at the time of the test.
- The antigen tests tell you if you have COVID-19 proteins at the time of the test.
- The antibody tests tells you if you have antibodies for COVID-19, which may mean that you were infected with the virus sometime in the past.
- Other tests may become available, check with your state Department of Health.

Doctors and scientists are learning new things about the virus all the time, and facts can change quickly. Vaccines for COVID-19 are available.

Have questions? Ask your doctor or health provider at your next appointment.

Anderson, K., & Stewart, T. (2020). COVID-19. [PowerPoint slides].

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (July 31, 2020). How to protect yourself & others.

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World Health Organization. (n.d.) Coronavirus. [https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab\\_1](https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus#tab=tab_1)