

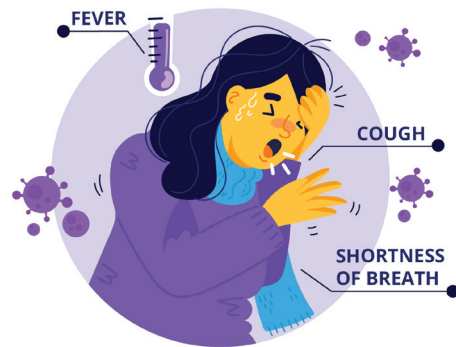
Symptoms of Coronavirus

The coronavirus family of viruses includes many pathogens that cause human sickness. These viruses can be passed from animals to humans. Although many common coronaviruses can cause mild illness, some newly identified coronaviruses are capable of causing more severe illness. Recent outbreaks of these newly identified coronaviruses have been traced to animals including cats, camels, and other mammals.

Examples of these newly identified coronaviruses include the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). In late 2019, another new, or novel, coronavirus was detected in humans. It was first identified in Wuhan, China, but within a few short weeks had rapidly spread around the globe. This novel coronavirus is genetically related to the coronavirus that caused SARS, so it has been named the SARS coronavirus 2 or SARS-CoV-2. The illness caused by SARS-CoV-2, first identified in late 2019, is called **Coronavirus Disease** or COVID-19.

COVID-19 causes respiratory symptoms including:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath



In severe cases, COVID-19 can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure, and death.

Coronavirus is spread by contact with infected droplets. This means infected people can spread the virus through coughing and sneezing. Coronavirus is thought to survive on surfaces for anywhere from a few hours to a few days, depending on temperature, the surface, and humidity.

Once infected, symptoms may appear 2-14 days later. If you have been traveling in an area with confirmed COVID-19 cases, or have had contact with an infected patient, and begin experiencing symptoms, it's important to get medical attention immediately to help prevent the spread of this virus. Testing kits can confirm the presence of coronavirus.

Patients with active symptoms may be isolated during treatment, which can last anywhere from a few days to longer, depending on the severity of the infection. To prevent transmission of the virus, patients known or suspected to be infected may be isolated until discharged home.

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Symptoms of Coronavirus Disease 2019. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>
3. World Health Organization. Coronavirus. <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>.