



CORONAVIRUS (COVID -19) Frequently Asked Questions

What is coronavirus? Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Some of these viruses cause illness in people while others generally infect animals. Sometimes animal coronaviruses that infect animals have emerged to infect people and can spread between people. This is what is suspected to have happened and causes this novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

How is coronavirus spread? The virus is generally spread from person to person through respiratory secretions.

What is the incubation period for coronaviruses? Generally a 14-day time frame is recommended. This is the longest incubation period seen for similar viruses. If someone remains symptom free for 14 days after exposure or potential exposure the risk of having the virus is greatly decreased.

What are the symptoms of coronavirus? Mild to moderate respiratory tract illnesses, like the common cold or flu with fever over 100.3.

How can I protect myself and my family/patients?

- Avoid close contact with others who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose
- Stay home if you are sick
- Cover your cough, sneeze into a tissue, throw the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe (Clorox wipes or other anti-viral, antibacterial wipes in the work place)
- Clean and wipe down all surfaces in the work area before and after every patient encounter and at the end of each day
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (especially before and after patient care, removal of gloves or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol).

Do I need to wear a facemask? If you are caring for a patient or family member suspected of or believed to have the virus the use of the mask by both the patient and the caregiver is recommended. The use of the mask by healthcare providers is crucial to prevent possible infection and spread of the virus. Masks are not currently recommended for people who are not sick.

What is the treatment for the virus? There is no specific treatment for the COVID-19 virus. Supportive care to reduce symptoms and prevent further complication is recommended.

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