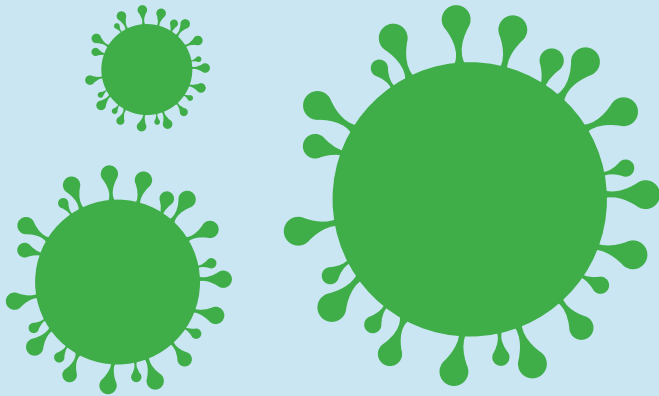


# Four Things You Need to Know

# CORONAVIRUS

## What is it?

The 2019 novel coronavirus infection, also known as **COVID-19**, is a respiratory infection caused by a new virus that was first identified in late 2019. It is actively being studied to determine how it is transmitted.



**Coronaviruses are common.** In fact, many ordinary colds are caused by coronaviruses.

## How do I know if I have it?

The immediate health risk from COVID-19 to the general public in the United States is considered low at this time.

People who have traveled in countries where the disease has spread in the community, health care providers caring for individuals with COVID-19 and people who have had close contact with someone with confirmed COVID-19 are at elevated risk.



**Common symptoms** can include **fever, cough** and **shortness of breath**.

If you have symptoms and are at high risk, you should call your health care provider. Tell them about your symptoms and recent travel before visiting their office. This allows for infection prevention and control measures to be in place before your arrival.

## How do I protect myself?

While there is currently no vaccine, the best way to protect yourself from COVID-19 is similar to how you'd take precautions against the cold or flu.



**Avoid close contact with people who are sick**



**Cover your cough or sneeze**



**Wash your hands using soap and water for at least 20 seconds**

Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces such as doorknobs, light switches or cabinet handles.

Stay home if you are sick.

There is no need to wear a face mask if you are well and do not have any symptoms.

## What are experts doing?

Infectious diseases physicians, scientists and public health experts affiliated with the Infectious Diseases Society of America, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization are working in several areas related to COVID-19, including:

- **Providing guidance** to hospitals and health care providers;
- **Working closely with local, state, national and global partners** to provide accurate information and clinical guidance;
- **Providing resources and expertise** to contain the outbreak;
- **Researching diagnostic tests** that may be able to better detect the disease;
- **Studying the spread of COVID-19** to better understand how to protect the public.

**IDSA provides up-to-date information** on its resource page: [COVID-19: What You Need to Know](#)