

# Coronavirus (COVID-19): What You Need to Know

**Health and safety are always among our top priorities at Weill Cornell Medicine. We are closely watching updates from trusted healthcare organizations and governmental recommendations about the new coronavirus (COVID-19), and will continue to keep you informed.**

## Health Tips & Prevention

Here is Guidance from the CDC on Staying Healthy:

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Wash your hands thoroughly and use alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

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Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.

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Stay home when you're sick and encourage family to do the same.

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Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

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Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, throw the tissue in the trash and immediately wash your hands. No tissue? Cough or sneeze into your elbow, not your hands.

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Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

## FAQs | Symptoms

### How long before symptoms of the virus appear?

The CDC believes at this time that symptoms of COVID-19 may appear between two and 14 days after exposure.

### How serious is this virus and what are the range of symptoms?

Reported symptoms due to infection with the virus that causes COVID-19 have ranged from mild to severe. Symptoms may include fever, cough or shortness of breath. There is some evidence that children have milder disease but experts are still learning about the range of illness caused by COVID-19.

### How does COVID-19 affect patients who are pregnant?

At this time, very little is known about COVID-19, particularly related to its effect on pregnant women and infants, and there currently are no recommendations specific to pregnant women regarding the evaluation or management of COVID-19.

### How can I get a note for school/work?

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/novel-coronavirus-doctor-note.pdf>

For more answers to FAQs, please visit:

**[weillcornell.org/coronavirus](https://weillcornell.org/coronavirus)**

or call our hotline, particularly if you have concerns of exposure, at:

**646-697-4000**



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## Video Visit

### Same Day Virtual Care Services

If you have concerns or are experiencing symptoms, you can schedule an immediate appointment through one of our virtual health sources:

#### Returning Patients

For existing Weill Cornell Medicine primary care patients, or specialty patients who wish to convert an existing appointment into a video visit, you may contact us by going to: [weillcornell.org/video-visits](https://weillcornell.org/video-visits).

#### New Patients

If you do not have a Weill Cornell Medicine primary care physician, you can setup a Virtual Urgent Care visit from home, with our healthcare providers at NewYork-Presbyterian. Go to: [NYP.org/ondemand](https://NYP.org/ondemand)

#### Open 7 days a week

**Adults:** 8am–midnight | **Children:** 4pm–midnight

## Testing

### How can I get tested for COVID-19?

At this time all testing must be approved by the New York State Department of Health. Testing is currently limited to patients with severe disease or those with symptoms who have recently traveled to one of the high-risk countries or have had close contact with a known case of COVID-19. Patients without symptoms or with typical cold symptoms are not eligible for testing. Even when expanded testing is available, healthcare providers will still only test those for whom there is a clinical indication for testing.

### What happens if I've been exposed or diagnosed with the COVID-19?

If you have been exposed or diagnosed by a healthcare professional, you might be provided with instructions for at-home self-monitoring. This includes checking yourself for fever and remaining alert to any changes in fever, cough or shortness of breath for 14 days.

## COVID-19 Hotline

If you suspect that you may have been exposed to the coronavirus (COVID-19), please call our hotline: **646-697-4000**



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