

2020 Novel Coronavirus: A Guide for Healthcare & Child Care Workers

What is the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)?

A new coronavirus, COVID-19, has been identified as the cause of a cluster of severe pneumonia cases that emerged in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, in December 2019. Since then, the virus has spread to many countries. More cases are being identified daily and there are numerous cases of medical workers contracting the virus.

While much has been learned about COVID-19 in a few weeks, there is still a lot we don't know.

What we know is that, while COVID-19 is in the same family as MERS and SARS, the fatality rate is lower for COVID-19 in comparison to these other viruses.

Things to know:

- ▶ Basic wellness practices like frequent handwashing and staying home if we're sick can help reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- ▶ COVID-19 is preventable and treatable, but only if we ensure working people are informed and protected.
- ▶ Working people across the country, including people on the front lines of our healthcare system, schools and airport workers, face an increased risk of exposure to illness.
- ▶ Employers must have contingency plans should working people see their workplaces closed or their hours scaled back if this health emergency grows.

What we know:

- ▶ Symptoms include fever and/or symptoms of lower respiratory illness such as coughing or difficulty breathing. Emerging evidence suggests that many individuals with COVID-19 show no symptoms or only mild symptoms.
- ▶ Human-to-human transmission is confirmed. People without symptoms can transmit the virus.

What we don't know:

- ▶ With some viruses, the infectious period precedes symptoms and with other viruses it coincides with symptoms – we don't know yet how about COVID-19.
- ▶ Whether the disease is transmitted via contact, droplet or aerosol.

SYMPTOMS: ▶ Fever and symptoms of lower respiratory illness and history of travel from affected geographic areas within 14 days or who has had close contact with a person with confirmed coronavirus illness within 14 days.

- ▶ Fever with severe acute lower respiratory illness (e.g., pneumonia, ARDS) requiring hospitalization and without alternative explanatory diagnosis (e.g., influenza), even if no source of exposure has been identified.

If a patient is experiencing some of these symptoms, providers should immediately notify hospital infection control and the local/state public health department. The CDC will help public health departments to safely collect, store and ship specimens. Currently, diagnostic testing can only be done at the CDC. Local labs should not attempt testing.

Patients with suspected coronavirus illness should immediately be given a surgical mask and placed in isolation, preferably in a negative pressure room.

Additional Resources:

City of Chicago
COVID-19 Hotline
1-312-746-7425

State of Illinois
COVID-19 Hotline
1-800-889-3931

SEIU HCU
Member Resource Center
1-866-933-7348

Centers for Disease
Control & Prevention
1-800-232-4636

FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE RESOURCES & INFORMATION, VISIT:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>