

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

The COVID-19 novel coronavirus is a new strain of coronavirus affecting humans.

Some coronaviruses can cause illness similar to the common cold and others can cause more serious diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome ([SARS](https://www.who.int/csr/sars/en) (<https://www.who.int/csr/sars/en>)) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome ([MERS](https://www.who.int/emergencies/mers-cov/en) (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/mers-cov/en>)).

This novel coronavirus is still new and as such we are still learning more about it.

Signs and Symptoms:

Symptoms reported in identified cases of COVID-19 novel coronavirus include:



Fever



Cough



Sore throat



Shortness of breath



Runny nose



Fatigue



Diarrhoea



Vomiting or nausea



Loss of smell and/or taste

Other symptoms people may experience include muscle or joint pain, and loss of appetite.

Everyone who gets COVID-19 will experience it a little differently.

People who have extreme symptoms or side effects from the virus may take weeks or months to recover fully, while people with a mild illness may feel completely better within a week or two.

Symptoms can vary depending on each case.

If you have any COVID-19 symptoms, no matter how mild, you should contact your local doctor or call 134 COVID (13 24 68).

People with suspected COVID-19 will be [tested](https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/take-action/testing-and-fever-clinics) (<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/take-action/testing-and-fever-clinics>).

Read about [novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms compared to cold or flu](https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/find-the-facts/symptoms-of-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-comparison) (<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/find-the-facts/symptoms-of-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-comparison>).

Treatment:

There is no specific treatment for COVID-19 infection. Antibiotics are not effective against viral infections. However, most of the symptoms can be treated with medical care.

Prevention:

Read about [COVID-19 coronavirus prevention](https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/take-action/coronavirus-prevention) (<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/take-action/coronavirus-prevention>).

Other resources:

- For up-to-date global information visit the [WHO](https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019) (<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>).
- For up-to-date Australian information and resources visit the [Australian Government Department of Health](https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov) (<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>) website.
- For up-to-date Queensland information visit the [Queensland Government](https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/public-health-directions/border-restrictions/) (<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/public-health-directions/border-restrictions/>) website

Help and assistance:

For further information on COVID-19 novel coronavirus, contact 134 COVID (13 24 68).

Health Insite:

[Novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/coronavirus) (<https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/coronavirus>)