

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
-  a cough
-  sore throat
-  fatigue
-  shortness of breath

Anyone who has travelled overseas in the past 14 days, and feels unwell, should see a doctor immediately. Before your appointment, please call ahead and advise of your symptoms and recent travel so they can prepare for your visit.

People with suspected novel coronavirus 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>).

Who is most at risk

In Australia, the people most at risk of getting the virus are those who have:

- recently been in in a high risk country or region (mainland China, Iran, Italy or Korea)
- been in close contact with someone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19

Based on what we know about coronaviruses, those most at risk of serious infection are:

- people with compromised immune systems (such as people who have cancer)
- elderly people
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples (as they have higher rates of chronic illness)
- people with chronic medical conditions
- people in group residential settings
- people in detention facilities

To help protect people most at risk, we have recommended limits on [public gatherings and visits to vulnerable groups](https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-public-gatherings-and-visits-to-vulnerable-groups) (<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-advice-for-public-gatherings-and-visits-to-vulnerable-groups>)

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.

There is currently no vaccine for COVID-19 novel coronavirus.

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:

- [Frequently asked questions: COVID-19 novel coronavirus](https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/find-the-facts/faqs-and-myth-busters)
(<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/find-the-facts/faqs-and-myth-busters>)
- For global up-to-date information on COVID-19 novel coronavirus 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 on COVID-19 novel coronavirus 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.

Help and assistance:

For further information on COVID-19 novel coronavirus, contact 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84).

Health Insite:

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