

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 fever (or history of fever) OR acute respiratory symptoms (cough, sore throat, shortness of breath), should see a doctor immediately. Before your appointment, please call ahead and advise of your symptoms and any 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

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.

URL: <http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/838/novel-coronavirus-covid-19>

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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>).

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>)
- For global up-to-date information on COVID-19 novel coronavirus visit the [WHO](#)
(<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>) 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>)