

COMMON Coronaviruses



NOVEL/NEW Coronaviruses (COVID-19)

Coronaviruses are common throughout the world and mostly cause mild to moderate illness. They are one cause of common colds.



In the U.S., people usually get infected with common coronaviruses in the fall and winter.



Common coronaviruses usually cause mild to moderate upper-respiratory tract illnesses, like the common cold.



Most people will get infected with one or more of the common coronaviruses in their lifetime. Young children are most likely to get infected.

This is a new coronavirus that can cause more serious respiratory illness in people. This virus was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.



Cases in the U.S. have been associated with travel to China, especially Hubei Province, or with close contact with a known case.



Illness has ranged from mild to severe respiratory illness including pneumonia with symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath.



People at greatest risk are people with a travel history to China or close contact with a known case. Immediate risk to U.S. public at this time is low.

There are simple everyday actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:

Avoid close contact with people who are sick; avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands; and wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.