



## Coronavirus (COVID-19) General Information

The U.S. Center for Disease Control (CDC) has determined Coronavirus (COVID-19) is contagious and spreads from human-to-human. The current risk assessment by the CDC states:

- For the general American public, who are unlikely to be exposed to this virus at this time, the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low.
- People in communities where ongoing community spread with the virus has been reported are at elevated though still relatively low risk of exposure.
- Healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Travelers returning from affected international locations where community spread is occurring also are at elevated risk of exposure.

### **What is COVID-19?**

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people such as with this new virus.

### **What are the Signs and Symptoms of COVID-19 Infection?**

Reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness for confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

### **How is it spread?**

#### **Person-to-person spread**

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

#### **Spread from contact with infected surfaces or objects**

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

### **How can we prevent the spread?**

There is currently no vaccine to prevent coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. However, as a reminder, CDC always recommends everyday preventive actions to help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

### **Are facemasks or respirators needed to help prevent the spread?**

Follow CDC's recommendations for using a facemask.

- CDC does not recommend people who are well (not infected) wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19.
- Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.
- The use of facemasks is also crucial for health workers and people who are taking care of someone in close settings (at home or in a health care facility).

### **What should a person do if they are sick?**

- Call ahead to a healthcare professional if you develop a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as cough or difficulty breathing, and have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or if you live in or have recently traveled to an area with ongoing spread.
- Your healthcare professional will work with your state's public health department and CDC to determine if you need to be tested for COVID-19.

### **More Information is Available at:**

We encourage our customers, passengers, school district officials, parents, and students to take the time to view the informational materials on the CDC website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), search word: Coronavirus. The site contains ample guidance on how to minimize the risk of exposure to the COVID-19.