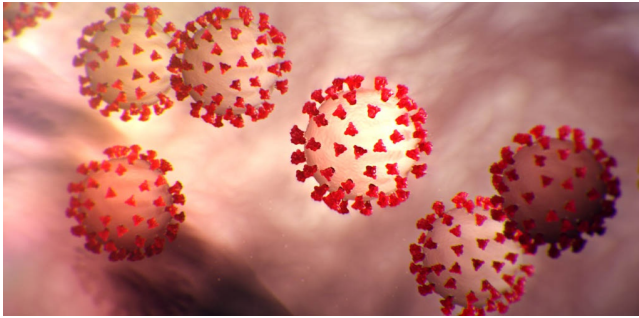# NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

Novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, is a new respiratory disease first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. Cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed across the United States, including in Washington and Clark County.

For the latest information on cases in the U.S., visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention **website**. For the latest information on cases in the state, visit the Washington State Department of Health **website**.

Public Health recommendations

What should I do if I have symptoms?

Supplies to test people for COVID-19 are limited. For this reason, health care providers have to prioritize who receives testing. Not everyone with symptoms will be tested.

If you have mild symptoms, stay home and away from others until 72 hours after the fever is gone and other symptoms improve. If your symptoms worsen and you need to seek medical care, call in advance so your provider can make a plan to see you without potentially exposing others. Your health care provider will determine whether you need to be tested.

If you develop symptoms and have a condition that may increase your risk for serious illness -- age 60 years or older or have medical conditions -- contact your health care provider. Your provider may want to monitor your health more closely or test you for COVID-19.

Here is additional guidance for people who have or think they have COVID-19:

- **What to do if you have confirmed or suspected COVID-19**
- **What to do if you were potentially exposed to someone with COVID-19**
- **What to do if you have symptoms of COVID-19 and have not been around anyone diagnosed with COVID-19**

How can I keep myself and others healthy?

Clark County Public Health is urging everyone to practice social distancing:

- Give space. Stay about 6 feet away from other people.
- Stay home. Avoid unnecessary trips to public locations.
- Don't congregate. Avoid indoor and outdoor gatherings with other people.

These recommendations are especially important for populations at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19:

COVID-19 questions?

state call center
6 am to 10 pm daily

1.800.525.0127

- older than 60.
- who have serious chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes, heart disease and lung disease.
- who have weakened immune systems.

Anyone who has questions about whether their condition puts them at risk for COVID-19 should consult their health care provider.

Everyday practices to prevent colds, influenza and other respiratory illnesses can also protect people against coronaviruses, including COVID-19. Clark County Public Health recommends people take the following actions to keep themselves healthy:

- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. When soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover coughs and sneezes. Use a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands.
- Stay home and away from others when sick.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are frequently touched.

Public Health response

COVID-19 testing is ordered at the discretion of local health care providers. Public Health does not provide COVID-19 testing and does not need to approve testing for COVID-19.

Number of positive tests	6
Number of deaths	3
Number of negative tests*	189

Numbers updated 10:45 am March 20. Public Health will update these numbers by 11 am daily.

*Positive test results are immediately notifiable to Clark County Public Health; negative test results are not. The number provided represents those individuals with negative test results that have been reported to the Washington Disease Reporting System, but does not represent the total number of individuals that have tested negative for COVID-19 in our community.

Positive cases announced March 20:

- Woman in her 60s. No known contact with a confirmed case. Recovering at home.
- Man in his 70s. No known contact with a confirmed case. Recovering at home.

Previously announced positive cases:

- Man in his 70s. No known contact with a confirmed case. Died March 17.
- Man in his 80s. No known contact with a confirmed case. Died March 16.
- Woman in her 80s. No known contact with a confirmed case. Died March 16.
- Woman in her 40s. Close contact of a confirmed case in Oregon.

Public Health identifies and notifies all close contacts of confirmed cases. Those individuals are placed in quarantine for 14 days. Public Health monitors those individuals for symptoms.

Unlike with confirmed measles cases, Public Health is not announcing public locations the COVID-19 case visited. COVID-19 is spread through close contact (within 6 feet) and via respiratory droplets when someone coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza spreads. It is not spread the same way as measles, which is airborne and can linger in the air for several hours. For this reason, listing places where a person with COVID-19 has been is not effective. Without close contact with an infected person, you are at extremely low risk of contracting COVID-19.

Additional resources
- Washington State Department of Health call center: 1.800.525.0127
- Washington State Department of Health novel coronavirus outbreak **webpage**
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention coronavirus disease 2019 **website**
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention information for travel **webpage**

Signs, posters and handouts

- Novel coronavirus fact sheet: **English**, **Spanish**, **Russian**, **Vietnamese**, **Chinese** (traditional), **Thai**, **Korean**
- **How can I prevent getting novel coronavirus? poster**

Parents and caretakers

- Washington State Department of Health **resources for parents/caretakers**
- **Just for Kids: A comic exploring the new coronavirus** (NPR)

Schools and child care centers

- Washington State Department of Health **recommendations for schools and child care facilities**
- Washington State Department of Health **recommendations for child care during COVID-19 outbreak**
- Washington State Department of Health school resources **webpage**

- Washington State Department of Health higher education resources **webpage**
- Washington State Department of Health child care resources **webpage**
- **Just for Kids: A comic exploring the new coronavirus** (NPR)

Businesses and employers

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention **interim guidance for businesses and employers**
- Washington State Department of Health **workplace and employer recommendations**

Food establishments

- Clark County Public Health **food establishment COVID-19 guidance**
- Washington State Department of Health food worker and establishment **webpage**
- Washington State Department of Health **dining area closures guidance**
- Washington State Department of Health **supply chain issues and conservation strategies**

Health care providers, clinics and hospitals

- Clark County Public Health **provider advisories**
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention **information for healthcare professionals**
- Washington State Department of Health **resources for healthcare providers**
- Washington State Department of Health **health alert for dental providers**

Long term care facilities

- Washington State Department of Health **resources for long term care facilities**
- Washington State Department of Health **recommendations for adult family homes**
- Washington State Department of Health **recommendations for assisted living facilities**

Communities and community organizations

- Washington State Department of Health communities and community organizations resources **webpage**
- Washington State Department of Health **guidance for public gatherings and events**

Homeless service providers

- Washington State Department of Health **recommendations for homeless shelter facilities**

Emergency medical services

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention **interim guidance for EMS services**

Frequently Asked Questions

Show All Answers   Hide All Answers

⊕ **What is COVID-19?**

⊕ **How does coronavirus spread?**

⊕ **What are the symptoms of coronavirus?**

⊕ **What should I do if I have COVID-19 symptoms?**

⊕ **How can people protect themselves from coronavirus?**

⊕ **What is the treatment for COVID-19?**

⊕ **Is it safe to travel?**

⊕ **Should I wear a mask when I go out in public?**

⊕ **How do I plan ahead for COVID-19?**

⊕ **What should I do if COVID-19 starts spreading in Clark County?**

⊕ **How can I help reduce stigma associated with COVID-19?**

⊕ **How can I donate?**

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