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### Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Page updated: Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 10:10 am

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If you have questions about COVID-19, call the Washington State Department of Health hotline at 1-800-525-0127 and press #.

#### New Reporting of COVID-19 Case Updates

The evolving nature of the COVID-19 outbreak has caused confusion and concern about how test results are reported. We are simplifying the way we report COVID-19 tests in order to make these statistics easier to understand.

Starting at noon today, March 13, 2020, we will only report Whatcom County statistics for:

- The total number of confirmed cases (test results that are positive for COVID-19).
- The total number of negative results (test results that are negative for COVID-19).
- Total number of deaths due to COVID-19.

We will no longer report pending tests. Here is why:

All COVID-19 tests are ordered by health care providers. In the early stages of testing, all tests were done by the Washington State Public Health lab in Shoreline and local health jurisdictions were involved in each test sent to the lab so we were able to report on

pending results.

As testing has been expanded in Washington State, commercial labs and the UW Virology lab have begun testing for COVID-19, and healthcare providers are now using these labs for COVID-19 testing. Tests sent to these labs are outside of the public health reporting system. The Whatcom County Health Department is not informed of these pending tests, but is informed of positive and negative results. Therefore we cannot accurately report the total number of pending COVID-19 tests submitted to labs from Whatcom County.

## 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Whatcom County

*This information will be updated daily at 12:00pm, or sooner if significant developments occur. Last updated: Friday, March 13, 2020 6:31pm.*

- **\*\*Confirmed Cases: 2**
- **\*Negative Results: 35**
- **Deaths: 0**

**\*\* Confirmed Cases:** *Positive test results for Whatcom County residents reported in the Washington Disease Reporting System as of 11:30 am.*

**\*Negative Results:** *Negative test results available for individuals that are that are known to the Whatcom County Health Department in the Washington Disease Reporting System as of 11:30am.*

## Additional Resources

- [Washington State Novel Coronavirus Outbreak 2020](#) (Washington State Department of Health)
- [2019 Novel Coronavirus](#) (Centers for Disease Control & Prevention)
  - What You Need to Know (PDF) - [English](#) | [Chinese](#) | [Spanish](#)
- [COVID-19 Outbreak](#) (World Health Organization)
- [COVID-19 Glossary](#) (PDF)

# Novel Coronavirus



## What is novel coronavirus?

Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a virus strain that has only spread in people since December 2019. Health experts are concerned because little is known about this new virus and it has the potential to cause severe illness and pneumonia in some people.

## How does novel coronavirus spread?

Health experts are still learning the details about how this new coronavirus spreads. Other coronaviruses spread from an infected person to others through:

- The air by coughing and sneezing.
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands.
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.
- In rare cases, contact with feces (poop).

## How severe is novel coronavirus?

Experts are still learning about the range of illness from novel coronavirus. Reported cases have ranged from mild illness (similar to a common cold) to severe pneumonia that requires hospitalization. So far, deaths have been reported mainly in older adults who had other health conditions.

## What are the symptoms?

People who have been diagnosed with novel coronavirus have reported symptoms that may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after they are exposed to the virus:



## [Novel Coronavirus Fact Sheets \(PDF\)](#)

- [English](#)
- [Spanish](#)
- [Russian](#)
- Chinese ([Simplified](#))
- Chinese ([Traditional](#))
- [Vietnamese](#)
- [Punjabi](#)

## Contact Us



Email for COVID19: [covid@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:covid@co.whatcom.wa.us)

Email for general info: [health@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:health@co.whatcom.wa.us)

Media Inquiries:



[health-PIO@co.whatcom.wa.us](mailto:health-PIO@co.whatcom.wa.us)

Phone: 360-778-6100


[Concerns About COVID-19 \(PDF\)](#)

# Concerns about COVID-19?


Do these things to prevent any kind of respiratory illness




**Wash your hands often.**




**Cover your coughs & sneezes.**



**Call ahead before visiting your doctor.**



**Stay home when sick.**  
If you have severe symptoms that need medical attention, call the clinic before going in.



**Clean all "high-touch" surfaces daily.**

**If you are sick:**

- If you have symptoms like cough, fever, or other respiratory problems, contact your regular doctor first. Do not go to the emergency room. Emergency rooms need to be able to serve those with the most critical needs.
- If you have traveled, make sure to tell your doctor about it.
- Healthcare providers are working with local public health departments and CDC to determine who needs to be tested for COVID-19.


[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/steps-when-sick.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/steps-when-sick.html)

**For more information:**


The Washington State Department of Health has established a call center to address questions from the public. If you have questions about what is happening in Washington, how the virus is spread, and what to do if you have symptoms, please call 1-800-525-0127 and press #.

[www.doh.wa.gov/emergencies/coronavirus](http://www.doh.wa.gov/emergencies/coronavirus)

Design & Illustration by Todd Morrison



Whatcom County  
**HEALTH**  
Department  
Updated March 4, 2020



[Spanish](#)

[Russian](#)

[COVID-19 Personal Preparedness \(PDF\)](#)

## How Can I Be Prepared for a COVID-19 Outbreak?

- COVID-19 is a new respiratory virus. There are no treatments for it. Most people will recover on their own, but some people can develop pneumonia and require medical care or hospitalization.
- As new information emerges from across the globe, please remember that the risk of COVID-19 is not at all connected with race, ethnicity or nationality. [Stigma will not help to fight the illness](#). Seeking and sharing accurate information during a time of heightened concern is one of the best things we can do to keep rumors and misinformation from spreading.

### How can I prevent the spread of COVID-19?

- [Symptoms](#) of COVID-19 primarily include fever, cough, and shortness of breath. These symptoms appear 2 to 14 days after exposure.
- COVID-19 [spreads between people](#) who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) via coughs or sneezes. It may also spread by touching a surface or object with the virus on it.
- People are thought to be [most contagious](#) when they are the sickest, though some spread is possible before people show symptoms.
- Prevention starts with practicing good personal health habits: stay home when you're sick, cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, wash your hands often with soap and water, and clean frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- Getting plenty of rest, drinking fluids, eating healthy foods, and managing your stress may help you prevent getting COVID-19 and recover from it if you do.

### How do I plan ahead for COVID-19?

- Make an emergency plan of action with your household members, relatives, and friends. Visit [Emergency Preparedness and You](#) for more information.
- If the disease starts spreading in your area, health officials might recommend to close schools or cancel events and encourage people to work remotely to slow the spread of the disease.

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 ([Washington Relay](#)) or email [civil.rights@doh.wa.gov](mailto:civil.rights@doh.wa.gov).

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