



# UPDATE

COVID-19 (novel coronavirus)

## What is a coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Common human coronaviruses can cause mild to moderate upper-respiratory tract illnesses, such as the common cold. There have been coronaviruses that have caused more severe illness, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS).

### *Novel coronavirus (COVID-19)*

A new coronavirus emerged in Wuhan, China, in December of 2019 and is currently referred to as the 2019 Novel Coronavirus, or COVID-19. There are now cases of COVID-19 reported in the United States.

**According to the CDC, the immediate health risk of COVID-19 to the American public is LOW.**

## Symptoms & More

### **Help Reduce the Spread of Respiratory Illnesses Like COVID-19**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol, if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

**If you experience the symptoms of COVID-19, inform your supervisor and stay home. Also, contact your healthcare provider about seeking medical attention.**

For more information on COVID-19 including materials for travelers visit Harris County Public Health at <http://www.hcphtx.org/nCoV>

Additional information can also be found on the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>

Harris County Public Health



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