



Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Message Maps

March 2, 2020

Key Message 1: There is a widespread, ongoing respiratory illness outbreak (COVID-19) caused by a novel coronavirus in much of the world.

- The novel coronavirus was first detected in Wuhan City, China.
- It has now been detected in multiple locations around the world.
- Rare cases have been reported in the United States.

Key Message 2: The virus that causes COVID-19 can spread from person to person and cause severe disease.

- Spread can occur between people in close contact (within about 6 feet).
- Symptoms of illness include fever, cough and shortness of breath and may appear 2 to 14 days after exposure.
- Older adults and people with underlying health conditions may be at increased risk.

Key Message 3: The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

Key Message 4: Travel is being restricted due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

- CDC recommends avoiding non-essential travel to certain areas of the world.
- COVID-19 recommendations for travel can be located [here](#).
- Airport screenings are being conducted to evaluate and monitor passengers arriving from some countries.

Key Message 5: The risk of getting coronavirus disease 2019 is currently low in the U.S.

- This is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation and the risk assessment may change daily.
- Individual risk is based on exposure.
- For most U.S. residents the immediate health risk from COVID-19 is considered low.

Key Message 6: People who are well are not recommended to wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19.

- Only wear a mask if a health care professional recommends it.
- Masks should be used by people who are showing symptoms.
- Masks are important for health workers and people taking care of someone infected with COVID-19 in close settings.

OTHER MESSAGES:

What are coronaviruses?

- Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses.
- They usually only cause mild respiratory disease, like the common cold.
- A novel (new) coronavirus is one that has never been identified before.

What does COVID-19 mean?

- Coronavirus disease 2019 is the name of the disease causing the current outbreak.
- The disease name is abbreviated as COVID-19.
- 'CO' stands for 'corona,' 'VI' for 'virus,' and 'D' for disease.