

FAQs for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

There is an ongoing outbreak of a respiratory illness caused by a new (novel) virus first identified in Wuhan, China. This virus is called the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

What are coronaviruses?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that often cause respiratory tract infections. Common human coronaviruses cause upper-respiratory tract infections with symptoms of the common cold. Occasionally, human coronaviruses can cause lower-respiratory tract infections, like pneumonia. Two other human coronaviruses, MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV, may cause severe infections.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has been identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. It is spread from person to person, causing mild to severe respiratory illnesses.

How does COVID-19 spread?

Coronaviruses can spread person-to-person. This means that it can spread from an infected person to another person through respiratory droplets (like coughing or sneezing) and close personal contact.

What are the signs/symptoms of COVID-19?

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Difficulty breathing

When should I suspect COVID-19?

Healthcare providers should obtain a detailed travel history for all patients presenting with fever and acute respiratory illness. Consider 2019-nCoV if a patient has:

Clinical Features	AND	Epidemiologic Risk
Fever or signs/symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g. cough or shortness of breath)	AND	Any person, including health care workers, who has had close contact with a laboratory-confirmed 2019-nCoV patient within <u>14 days</u> of symptom onset
Fever and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness	AND	A history of travel from Hubei Province , China within <u>14 days</u> of symptom onset
Fever and signs/symptoms of a lower respiratory illness requiring hospitalization	AND	A history of travel from mainland China within <u>14 days</u> of symptom onset

How is UAB screening for COVID-19?

All patients (inpatient and outpatient) will be screened using the Infectious Disease Risk Screening Tool in Impact.

How can I protect myself?

- Wash your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid close unprotected contact with anyone with respiratory symptoms
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when coughing or sneezing.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

**This is an emerging infectious disease. This information will be updated as more information is available.*

References:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html> --accessed 1/24/2020

World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/csr/don/12-january-2020-novel-coronavirus-china/en/> --accessed 1/24/2020

www.uab.edu/news/coronavirus