

# What you need to know about:

# **COVID-19** (CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019)

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## **Q: What is COVID-19?**

A: Coronavirus disease 2019 or COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a new coronavirus that has spread throughout the world.

## **Q: How does COVID-19 spread?**

A: COVID-19 spreads the same way the flu and other respiratory diseases spread, through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. You can become infected by coming into close contact (*about 6 feet or two arm's length*) with a person who has COVID-19.

## **Q: What are the symptoms of COVID-19?**

A: People with COVID-19 have had symptoms ranging from mild to severe illness. Symptoms typically appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. COVID-19 symptoms include:

- Fever / chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath / difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle / body aches
- Headaches
- Sore Throat
- New loss of taste / smell
- Congestion / runny nose
- Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

For updated CDC information about symptoms go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

## **Q: How is COVID-19 treated?**

A: There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms. Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent COVID-19.

## **Q: Who can get tested for COVID-19?**

A: Anyone in Georgia can get tested for COVID-19. Call your local health department to schedule an appointment or contact your healthcare provider.

It is important to know that a negative test means you were not infected with COVID-19 when you were tested. It does not mean you won't become infected or get sick at another time. Even if you test negative, you still should take steps to protect yourself and others.

## **Q: How can I help protect myself from COVID-19?**

A: The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19. The same measures that are urged to prevent the spread of any respiratory virus are very important for all Georgians:

- Wash your hands often with soap + water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) if soap + water are not available.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Stay home if you're sick.
- Practice social distancing or putting 6 feet between yourself + others.
- Wear a face covering that covers your nose + mouth when you're in public settings.

For more information: [dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus](https://dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus)  
[cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)

