

As with other respiratory illnesses, infection with 2019-nCoV can cause mild symptoms including **a runny nose, sore throat, cough, and fever.** It can be more severe for some persons and can lead to pneumonia or breathing difficulties.

## How dangerous is The 2019-nCoV?

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**Yes, the 2019-nCoV causes respiratory disease and can be transmitted from person to person, usually after close contact with an infected patient, for example, in a household workplace, or health care centre.**

**Can the 2019-nCoV be transmitted from person to person?**

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**People living or travelling in an area where the 2019-nCoV virus is circulating may be at risk of infection.**

**At present, 2019-nCoV is circulating in China where the vast majority of people infected have been reported. Those infected from other countries are among people who have recently traveled from China or who have been living or working closely with those travellers, such as family members, co-workers or medical professionals caring for a patient before they knew the patient was infected with 2019-nCoV.**

**Who can catch the  
2019-nCoV?**

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While we still need to learn more about how 2019-nCoV affects people, thus far, **older people, and people with pre-existing medical conditions** (such as diabetes and heart disease) appear to be more at risk of developing severe disease.

Who is at risk of developing severe symptoms from 2019-nCoV?

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The new coronavirus is a respiratory virus which spreads primarily through contact with an infected person through respiratory droplets generated when a person, for example, coughs or sneezes, or through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose. It is important that everyone practice good respiratory hygiene. For example, sneeze or cough into a flexed elbow, or use a tissue and discard it immediately into a closed bin. It is also very important for people to wash their hands regularly with either alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water.

**How does 2019-nCoV  
spread?**

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**It is still not known how long the 2019-nCoV virus survives on surfaces, although preliminary information suggests the virus may survive a few hours.**

**Simple disinfectants can kill the virus making it no longer possible to infect people.**

**How long does 2019-nCoV survive on surfaces?**

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**According to recent reports, it may possible that people infected with 2019-nCoV may be infectious before showing significant symptoms. However, based on currently available data, the people who have symptoms are causing the majority of virus spread.**

**Can 2019-nCoV be caught from a person who presents no symptoms?**

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