



# COVID-19 Information for Law Enforcement: General Fact Sheet

*Educate Yourself. Stay Informed. Be Safe.*

## What is COVID-19?

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is the name given by the World Health Organization for a new respiratory disease first identified in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. It has now been identified in more than 90 countries. Coronaviruses are a family of viruses found in people and animals causing a range of illnesses from the common cold to severe respiratory infection. Due to the increased availability of testing, more COVID-19 infections are being identified every day. As it is a newly-identified virus, this is an emerging and rapidly-evolving situation and new information becomes available daily. Stay updated.

## How does the COVID-19 Virus Spread?

The virus is thought to spread mainly by “person-to-person” contact. This means close contact within six feet and through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.<sup>1</sup> While humans are thought to be most contagious when symptomatic, the virus can spread even when an infected person is not showing symptoms.<sup>2</sup> It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching his/her mouth, nose, or possibly eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.<sup>3,4</sup>

## What are COVID-19 Symptoms?

Symptoms of a COVID-19 infection may appear 2-14 days after being exposed to the virus. Symptoms range from mild to severe respiratory illness.<sup>5</sup> The most common symptoms include:<sup>6,7</sup>



- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath or difficulty in breathing
- Tiredness/fatigue

While less common, individuals with COVID-19 may also experience<sup>8</sup>:

- Aches and pains
- Sore throat
- Nasal Congestion
- Chills
- Nausea and vomiting

## Vulnerable Populations

Current COVID-19 cases and prior coronavirus infections suggest that the most vulnerable populations include<sup>9</sup>:

- Older persons
- Individuals with pre-existing medical conditions, such as:
  - Heart disease
  - Lung disease
  - Diabetes
  - Pregnant women

## Treatment and Recovery

- The overwhelming majority of people infected with COVID-19 experience mild symptoms and recover from the disease without needing special treatment.<sup>10,11</sup>
- There is no specific antiviral treatment or vaccine for COVID-19.<sup>12</sup>
- Individuals with COVID-19 typically successfully receive treatment to relieve symptoms.<sup>13</sup>

## Live Update of Global Cases of COVID-19

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

## COVID-19 Resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/novel-coronavirus-china>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen>

1 <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>  
2 <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/who-china-joint-mission-on-covid-19-final-report.pdf>  
3 <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>  
4 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>  
5 <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/who-china-joint-mission-on-covid-19-final-report.pdf>  
6 <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>  
7 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/COVID19-symptoms.pdf>

8 <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>  
9 <https://www.who.int/images/default-source/health-topics/coronavirus/myth-busters/mythbuster-2.png>  
10 <https://www.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>  
11 <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>  
12 <https://www.who.int/images/default-source/health-topics/coronavirus/myth-busters/mythbuster-4.png>  
13 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>