

Facts about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

For up-to-date information, visit CDC's coronavirus disease 2019 [situation summary page](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

FACT 1 Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity. People of Asian descent, including Chinese Americans, are not more likely to get COVID-19 than any other American. Help stop fear by letting people know that being of Asian descent does not increase the chance of getting or spreading COVID-19.

FACT 2 The risk of getting COVID-19 in the U.S. is currently low. Some people who have traveled to places where many people have gotten sick with COVID-19 may be monitored by health officials to protect their health and the health of other people in the community.

FACT 3 You can help stop COVID-19 by knowing the signs and symptoms: Fever – Cough - Shortness of breath.

FACT 4 Call ahead before you go to a doctor's office, Health Department or emergency room. Contact your healthcare provider or county Health Department if you develop symptoms **AND** have been in close contact with a person known to have COVID-19 or live in or have recently traveled from an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

FACT 5 There are simple things you can do to help keep yourself and others healthy.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to this virus. As a reminder, the Florida Department of Health always recommends everyday preventive actions to help reduce the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick;
- Staying home when you are sick and avoiding contact with persons in poor health;
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then disposing of the tissue;
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing;
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty; and
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

The CDC does not recommend that asymptomatic (healthy people) wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others.

Please visit the Florida Department of Health dedicated COVID-19 webpage at www.FloridaHealth.gov/COVID-19. This remains the best and most up-to-date resource for information and guidance regarding COVID-19 in Florida.

For any other questions related to COVID-19 in Florida, please contact the Department's dedicated COVID-19 Call Center by calling **1-866-779-6121** or emailing COVID-19@flhealth.gov. **The Call Center is available Monday through Friday, 8:00am to 5:00pm.**

The CDC also has a website with information related to COVID-19: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.