



CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) INFORMATION

What You Need to Know & How to Help Prevent Its Spread

What is coronavirus?

The coronavirus is part of a large family of viruses common in both humans and animals. Like MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) and SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), the novel coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease, but a new strain that has not been previously identified in humans, and that has the potential to cause severe illness and pneumonia.

What are the symptoms of coronavirus?

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure and include fever, cough or shortness of breath.

How does coronavirus spread?

Health experts are still learning about how this new coronavirus spreads. Other coronaviruses spread from an infected person to others through:

- The air by coughing and sneezing.
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands.
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes.

How can I protect myself from getting coronavirus?

If you are traveling overseas, follow the CDC's guidance at [CDC.gov/Travel](https://www.cdc.gov/travel). There are steps you can take to prevent spread of flu and the common cold that will also help prevent coronavirus disease, including:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or upper sleeve when coughing or sneezing.
- Avoid contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home if you are sick and contact your health care provider.

How will I know if there are any coronavirus cases in Michigan?

Information about the number of persons under investigation (PUIs) and specimens tested is updated daily at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus). Also available are the total number of people who may have been exposed to the virus who are referred to local public health officials for monitoring or assessment.

Can my health care provider test for coronavirus disease?

Health care providers collect the specimen to be tested should an individual meet the testing criteria. As of Feb. 27, 2020, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Bureau of Laboratories can also perform the test.

How much will I have to pay for a coronavirus test?

On March 6, 2020, Gov. Whitmer announced that the Michigan Medicaid Program will waive co-pays and cost-sharing for testing and health care treatment related to COVID-19. Several insurers, including Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Blue Care Network of Michigan, CVS Health, McLaren, and Meridian have also announced they will fully cover the cost of medically necessary coronavirus tests for members.

What is Michigan doing to prevent coronavirus from spreading in the state?

MDHHS began working with local health departments, health care coalitions, hospital, and health care partners when the novel coronavirus outbreak began in Wuhan, China. Initial focus was working with federal partners to ensure that Michigan's public health system could support traveler screening and monitoring to limit the entry of coronavirus cases into the U.S.

On Feb. 3, 2020, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services activated the Community Health Emergency Coordination Center, and they have been working diligently with local health departments, health systems, and medical providers to make sure appropriate screening and preparations for coronavirus are being made.

On Feb. 28, 2020, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer activated the State Emergency Operations Center to maximize coordination with state, local and federal agencies, as well as private partners, and to help prevent the spread of the disease.

On March 3, 2020, she announced the creation of four task forces to combat the spread of coronavirus and assess the impact it may have on Michiganders' day-to-day lives.

STAY INFORMED

Information around this outbreak is changing rapidly.

The latest information is available at [Michigan.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus) and [CDC.gov/Coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus).

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