

The facts about COVID-19

What we know about the virus pandemic

HISTORY OF PANDEMICS AND OUTBREAKS

1918 pandemic:

This influenza pandemic was the most severe pandemic in recent history. It was caused by an H1N1 virus with genes of avian origin. While there is no universal consensus regarding where the virus originated, it spread worldwide between 1918-19. In the United States, it was first identified in military personnel in the spring of 1918. It is estimated the virus infected about a third of the world's population, and more U.S. soldiers died from the virus than in battle during World War I.

Worldwide deaths: **50 million**
U.S. deaths: **675,000**

1957-58 H2N2 pandemic:

Worldwide deaths: **1.1 million**
U.S. deaths: **116,000**

1968 H3N2 pandemic:

Worldwide deaths: **1 million**
U.S. deaths: **100,000**

2009 H1N1 pandemic:

Worldwide deaths: **284,000**
U.S. Deaths: **12,469**

2012-present MERS outbreak:

Worldwide deaths: **858**
U.S. deaths: **0**

2003 SARS outbreak:

Worldwide deaths: **774**
U.S. deaths: **0**

2014-16 Ebola outbreak:

Worldwide deaths: **11,325**
U.S. deaths: **1**

2019-20 COVID-19 pandemic:

Worldwide deaths: **128,000+**
U.S. deaths: **26,000+**

Source: CDC, WHO

COVID-19 symptoms:

The following symptoms may appear two to 14 days after exposure:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

If you develop the following emergency warning signs, get medical attention immediately:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

Facts about coronaviruses:

Coronavirus:

A large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats and bats. Rarely, animal coronaviruses can infect people and then spread between people.

SARS-CoV-2:

The coronavirus which causes COVID-19

Source of the virus:

SARS-CoV-2 virus is a betacoronavirus, like MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV. All three of these viruses have their possible origins in bats. The sequences from U.S. patients are similar to the one China initially posted, suggesting a likely single, recent emergence of this virus from an animal reservoir.

SARS:

Severe acute respiratory syndrome is a viral respiratory illness caused by the coronavirus called SARS-associated coronavirus (SARS-CoV). It was first reported in Asia in 2003 and spread to more than two dozen countries before being contained by 2004.

Source of the virus:

SARS-CoV is thought to be an animal virus from an as-yet-uncertain animal reservoir, perhaps bats, that spread to other animals, like civet cats, and first infected humans in the Guangdong province of southern China in 2002.

MERS:

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome is an illness caused by the coronavirus (MERS-CoV). About three or four out of every 10 patients reported with MERS have died. Only two patients in the U.S. tested positive for the virus in 2014, and both were discharged after fully recovering.

Source of the virus:

MERS-CoV likely came from an animal source in the Arabian Peninsula. Researchers have found MERS-CoV in camels from several countries. Studies have shown direct contact with camels is a risk factor for human infection with MERS-CoV, but more information is needed to understand the interactions between humans and camels that are important for transmission.

Five tips about Facemasks:

People can spread COVID-19 to others even if they are not feeling sick. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the following tips when it comes to facemasks.

1. Everyone should wear a cloth face cover when they have to go out in public, for example, to the grocery store or to pick up other necessities.
2. Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing or is unconscious, incapacitated or unable to remove the mask without assistance.
3. The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
4. Do not use a facemask meant for a healthcare worker.
5. The cloth face cover is not a substitute for social distancing. Continue to maintain about 6 feet between yourself and others.

► More information: See **COVID-19**, 04