

# Home Isolation Instructions for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

The following instructions are for people who are confirmed to have COVID-19 or clinically suspected to have COVID-19.

## Information for people with COVID-19 who are not hospitalized

### Home Care

There is no approved antiviral treatment available for COVID-19 infection although experimental studies are underway. People who are infected can take the following steps to help relieve their symptoms:

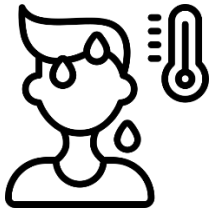
- Rest and allow your body to recover
- Stay hydrated—Drink plenty of fluids, especially water and fluids with electrolytes.
- Take acetaminophen (such as Tylenol®) as needed to reduce fever and pain—Children under the age of 2 should not be given any over-the-counter cold medication without first speaking with a healthcare provider.

\*Medications do not “cure” the virus or prevent the virus from spreading to others but are recommended to increase comfort and relieve certain symptoms associated with the illness.

### Seeking Medical Care

Seek prompt medical care if your symptoms get worse, especially if you are at a higher risk of serious illness. This includes people who are 65 years old or older, pregnant, or have an underlying health condition such as a chronic disease or a weak immune system.

**If you experience any of the following serious symptoms, call your healthcare provider:**



**Difficulty Breathing**



**Can't keep fluids  
down**



**Dehydration**



**Other serious  
symptoms**

**Call 911 if you are experiencing any symptoms that require emergency assistance, such as:**

- Gasping for air
- Bluish lips or face
- Persistent pain or chest pressure
- Severe persistent lightheadedness or dizziness
- New confusion
- New seizures or seizures that won't stop
- Unconsciousness

Tell the 911 operator that you have COVID-19. If possible, put on a face mask before emergency medical services arrive.



If it is not urgent, call your healthcare provider for medical advice, they may be able to assist you by phone. If you do need to visit a healthcare facility, make sure you put on a face mask before you enter to protect others from catching the infection from you.

COVID-19 may be stressful for people, see [How to Cope with Stress during COVID-19](#) for resources for families, parents, and caregivers to learn how to care for your mental health and support your loved ones during this outbreak. You may also find it settling to know that Public Health Services will not notify or release any personal information about you to your workplace or school unless it is necessary to do so to protect your health or the health of others.

## Protecting Others

**Follow the steps below to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 to other people in your home and your community.**

### 1. Stay home except, if needed, to get medical care.

- Do not go to work, school, or public areas.
- Stay home until at least 10 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared AND at least 3 days after you have recovered.

**Recovery is defined as:**

- 1) Ten days have passed since your symptoms first appeared **AND**
  - 2) You have not had a fever for at least 72 hours/3 days without the use of a fever-reducing medication **AND**
  - 3) Your respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, or shortness of breath) have improved.
- If you must leave home while you are sick, do not use public transportation. Use a personal vehicle if possible. If you cannot drive yourself, keep as much distance as possible between you and the driver, drive with the windows down and wear a face mask or covering.
  - Arrange for food and other necessities to be delivered to your home and left at your door if you do not have someone who can help you with these essential needs. If you need to meet someone at the door, wear a face mask.

### 2. Separate yourself from other people in your home.

- Select a specific room in your home that will be used for you to separate yourself from others while you recover—Stay in this room away from other people in your home as much as possible. It is especially important to stay away from individuals who are at higher risk of serious illness if infected.
- Use a separate bathroom, if possible. If this is not possible, clean and disinfect the bathroom after each use as indicated below.
- Practice social distancing when around others in your home—Try and stay at least 6 feet away from others.



- Open windows or use a fan or air conditioner in shared spaces of the home to ensure good airflow.
- Do not allow visitors in your home.
- Do not handle pets or other animals while you are sick.
- Do not prepare or serve food to others.
- Do not care for children or others in your home if possible.
- If it is not possible to adequately separate yourself from others in your home, or if you live with individuals who are at higher risk of serious illness if infected with COVID-19 (such as older adults, those with a chronic disease or a compromised immune system), please talk to your healthcare provider about alternate living arrangements. They may refer you to temporary lodging while you recover.

### 3. **Wear a face mask if you will be around others.**

You should wear a face mask when you are around other people or pets, such as when sharing a room or vehicle and before entering a hospital or healthcare provider’s office. If you are not able to wear a face mask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then people who live with you should not be in the same room with you. If they must enter your room, they should wear a face mask. After leaving your room, they should immediately wash their hands, then remove and dispose of their face mask or place it directly in the laundry if using a reusable face mask and wash their hands again.

**4. Cover coughs and sneezes.** To prevent spreading the infection to others, when coughing or sneezing cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve. Throw used tissues in a lined trash can, and immediately wash your hands with soap and water.

**5. Avoid sharing household items.** Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, bedding, or other items with other people in the home. These items should be washed thoroughly after use with soap and warm water.

**6. Keep your hands clean.** All people in the home should wash their hands often and thoroughly, especially after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food. Use soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available and if hands are not visibly dirty. Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

### 7. **Clean all “high-touch” surfaces every day.**

High-touch surfaces include counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, phones, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables. Also, clean any surfaces that may have blood, body fluids and/or secretions or excretions on them. Disinfect using [EPA approved products proven for use against the COVID-19 virus](#) (e.g., Clorox Disinfecting Wipes, Lysol Clean & Fresh Multi-Surface Cleaner, Purell Professional Surface Disinfectant Wipes).

#### Cleaning Instructions

- Follow the recommendations provided on cleaning product labels including precautions you should take when applying the product, such as wearing gloves or aprons and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.



- Use a diluted bleach solution or a household disinfectant with a label that says “EPA approved.” To find out if the product works against viruses, read the product label, call the 1-800 number on the label or visit [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).

*To make a bleach solution at home:*

Add 4 teaspoons of bleach to 1 quart (4 cups) of water. For a larger supply, add 1/3 cup of bleach to 1 gallon (16 cups) of water.

See our Coronavirus COVID-19 [Disinfection Guidance for more information](#).

- Wash laundry thoroughly.
- Immediately remove and wash clothes or bedding that have blood, body fluids and/or secretions or excretions on them.
- Wear disposable gloves while handling soiled items. Wash your hands immediately after removing your gloves—Reusable rubber cleaning gloves can be used as an alternative if disposable gloves are not available and should be removed after use and placed directly in the wash without touching anything else and hands should be washed immediately after gloves are removed. If gloves are not available or were not used, wash your hands immediately and thoroughly after touching anything that may have come in contact with body fluids.
- Read and follow directions on labels of laundry or clothing items and detergent. In general, wash and dry with the warmest temperatures recommended on the clothing label.
- Place all used **disposable** gloves, gowns, face masks, and other contaminated items in a lined container before placing them with other household waste. Wash your hands immediately after handling these items. If **reusable** gloves, gowns, face masks or face coverings are used, place these items directly in the wash after use, and wash your hands thoroughly.

## Information for Your Close Contacts

### Quarantine

Anyone thought to have or known to have COVID-19 should tell all their close contacts that they may need to be in quarantine for 14 days starting with the last day they had contact with you. **If your close contacts are considered [essential critical infrastructure workers](#)**, they may be allowed to continue working after a potential exposure to COVID-19 if they don’t have symptoms and take additional precautions to protect themselves and the community. Essential critical workers should contact their employer and visit the [CDC Implementing Safety Practices for Critical Infrastructure Workers Who May Have Had Exposure to a Person with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19](#) web page for guidance. **Close contacts who are non-essential workers** should follow the 14-day quarantine guidance.



Close contacts include all household members, any intimate contacts, and all individuals who were within 6 feet of you for prolonged periods of time, starting 48 hours before your symptoms began until your isolation period ends. In addition, anyone who had contact with your body fluids and/or secretions (such as were coughed on or sneezed on, shared utensils or saliva, or provided care to you without wearing protective equipment) may need to be in quarantine. They should self-quarantine even if they feel well because it can take 2-14 days for them to show symptoms. See our **Home Quarantine Guidance for COVID-19** Close Contacts for more information.

### **Precautions for close contacts**

It is recommended that everyone stay at least 6 feet away from you while you are under home isolation. If this is not possible, anyone who continues to be in close contact with you will need to extend their quarantine period to 14 days from the last time they had close contact with you.

Your caregivers and household contacts should wear a disposable face mask and gloves if they clean your room or bathroom or come into contact with your body fluids, and/or secretions (such as sweat, saliva, sputum, nasal mucus, vomit, urine, or diarrhea). They should remove and dispose of their gloves first, wash their hands, then remove and dispose of their face mask and wash their hands again. (If a reusable face mask and/or gloves are used, place these items directly in the wash after use and follow the same steps for removal.)

**Close contacts should monitor their health and call their healthcare provider if they develop any symptoms and let them know about being a close contact to a patient confirmed or suspected to have COVID-19.**

Visit our website <http://www.icphd.org/> for more information, resources, and guidance. Please call your healthcare provider for any questions related to your health. If you do not have a healthcare provider, are uninsured, or need help finding community resources, call (442) 265-6700 for assistance.

