



# Public Health Division

Calaveras Health and Human Services Agency

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## Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Fact Sheet

### What is novel coronavirus?

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a virus that has only spread in people since December 2019. Health experts are concerned because little is known about this new virus. It has the potential to cause severe illness in some people. There is no current vaccine to prevent COVID-19.

### How COVID-19 spreads

Health experts are still learning about how this new coronavirus spreads. The virus is mainly spread person-to-person like other coronaviruses:

- Between people who are in close contact with one another.
- By droplets in the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or inhaled into the lungs.

### How severe is novel coronavirus?

Experts are still learning about how severe the novel coronavirus is. Reported cases have been mild (similar to a common cold) to severe that requires hospitalization. So far, deaths from COVID-19 have been mainly in older adults who had other health conditions.

### What are the symptoms?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention believes that at this time symptoms from COVID-19 may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure. Symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

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### **How can I prevent from getting novel coronavirus?**

Right now, the novel coronavirus has not been spreading widely in the United States. Calaveras Public Health asks that steps taken to prevent the flu and the common cold will also help prevent coronavirus:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water is not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home from work or school and limit contact with others if you are sick with fever and cough.
- Clean surfaces that are touched often, like toys and doorknobs.

### **How is novel coronavirus treated?**

Currently, there is no vaccine available to prevent novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). There are no medications specifically approved for coronavirus. Most people with mild coronavirus illness will recover on their own. However, some cases develop pneumonia and require medical care or hospitalization. People who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should contact their healthcare provider immediately.

If you have questions, please call Calaveras Public Health at (209) 754-6460.

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