

Steps to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 if you are sick

FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW: If you are sick with COVID-19 or think you might have COVID-19, follow the steps below to help protect other people in your home and community.

Stay home except to get medical care

- **Stay home:** Most people with COVID-19 have mild illness and are able to recover at home without medical care. Do not leave your home, except to get medical care. Do not visit public areas.
- **Stay in touch with your doctor.** Call before you get medical care. Be sure to get care if you have trouble breathing, or have any other emergency warning signs, or if you think it is an emergency.
- **Avoid public transportation:** Avoid using public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.



Separate yourself from other people in your home, this is known as home isolation

- **Stay away from others:** As much as possible, stay away from others. You should stay in a specific “sick room” if possible, and away from other people in your home. Use a separate bathroom, if available.
 - See COVID-19 and Animals if you have questions about pets. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/faq.html#COVID19animals>



Call ahead before visiting your doctor

- **Call ahead:** Many medical visits for routine care are being postponed or done by phone or telemedicine.
- If you have a medical appointment that cannot be postponed, call your doctor’s office, and tell them you have or may have COVID-19. This will help the office protect themselves and other patients.



If you are sick wear a facemask in the following situations, if available.

- **If you are sick:** You should wear a facemask, if available, when you are around other people (including before you enter a healthcare provider’s office).
- **If you are caring for others:** If the person who is sick is not able to wear a facemask (for example, because it causes trouble breathing), then as their caregiver, you should wear a facemask when in the same room with them. Visitors, other than caregivers, are not recommended.



Note: During a public health emergency, facemasks may be reserved for healthcare workers. You may need to improvise a facemask using a scarf or bandana.

Cover your coughs and sneezes

- **Cover:** Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- **Dispose:** Throw used tissues in a lined trash can.
- **Wash hands:** Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



Clean your hands often

- **Wash hands:** Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. This is especially important after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- **Hand sanitizer:** If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, covering all surfaces of your hands and rubbing them together until they feel dry.
- **Soap and water:** Soap and water are the best option, especially if hands are visibly dirty.
- **Avoid touching:** Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.



Avoid sharing personal household items

- **Do not share:** Do not share dishes, drinking glasses, cups, eating utensils, towels, or bedding with other people in your home.
- **Wash thoroughly after use:** After using these items, wash them thoroughly with soap and water or put in the dishwasher.



[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Clean all “high-touch” surfaces everyday

Clean high-touch surfaces in your isolation area (“sick room” and bathroom) every day; let a caregiver clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces in other areas of the home.



- **Clean and disinfect:** Routinely clean high-touch surfaces in your “sick room” and bathroom. Let someone else clean and disinfect surfaces in common areas, but not your bedroom and bathroom.
 - If a caregiver or other person needs to clean and disinfect a sick person’s bedroom or bathroom, they should do so on an as-needed basis. The caregiver/other person should wear a mask and wait as long as possible after the sick person has used the bathroom.
- High-touch surfaces include phones, remote controls, counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, toilets, keyboards, tablets, and bedside tables.
- **Clean and disinfect areas that may have blood, stool, or body fluids on them.**
- **Household cleaners and disinfectants:** Clean the area or item with soap and water or another detergent if it is dirty. Then, use a household disinfectant.
 - Be sure to follow the instructions on the label to ensure safe and effective use of the product. Many products recommend keeping the surface wet for several minutes to ensure germs are killed. Many also recommend precautions such as wearing gloves and making sure you have good ventilation during use of the product.
 - Most EPA-registered household disinfectants should be effective. A full list of disinfectants can be found [here](#).

Monitor your symptoms

- Common symptoms of COVID-19 include fever and cough. Trouble breathing is a more serious symptom that means you should get medical attention.
- **If you are having trouble breathing, seek medical attention, but call first.**
 - Call your doctor or emergency room before going in and tell them your symptoms. They will tell you what to do.
- **Wear a facemask:** If available, put on a facemask before you enter the building. If you can’t put on a facemask, cover your coughs and sneezes. Try to stay at least 6 feet away from other people. This will help protect the people in the office or waiting room.
- **Follow care instructions from your healthcare provider and local health department:** Your local health authorities will give instructions on checking your symptoms and reporting information.



If you develop **emergency warning signs** for COVID-19 get **medical attention immediately.**

Emergency warning signs include*:

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

*This list is not all inclusive. Please consult your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning.

Call 911 if you have a medical emergency: If you have a medical emergency and need to call 911, notify the operator that you have or think you might have, COVID-19. If possible, put on a facemask before medical help arrives.

How to discontinue home isolation

- People **with COVID-19 who have stayed home (home isolated)** can stop home isolation under the following conditions:
 - **If you will not have a test** to determine if you are still contagious, you can leave home after these three things have happened:
 - You have had no fever for at least 72 hours (that is three full days of no fever without the use medicine that reduces fevers) AND
 - other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved) AND
 - at least 7 days have passed since your symptoms first appeared
 - **If you will be tested** to determine if you are still contagious, you can leave home after these three things have happened:
 - You no longer have a fever (without the use medicine that reduces fevers) AND
 - other symptoms have improved (for example, when your cough or shortness of breath have improved) AND
 - you received two negative tests in a row, 24 hours apart. Your doctor will follow CDC guidelines.



In all cases, follow the guidance of your healthcare provider and local health department. The decision to stop home isolation should be made in consultation with your healthcare provider and state and local health departments. Local decisions depend on local circumstances.

More information is available <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-in-home-patients.html>.

Additional information for healthcare providers: [Interim Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Persons Under Investigation for 2019 Novel Coronavirus.](#)

Qué hacer si contrae la enfermedad del coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19)

Si usted está enfermo con COVID-19 o sospecha que está infectado por el virus que causa el COVID-19, tome las medidas mencionadas a continuación para ayudar a prevenir que la enfermedad se propague a personas en su casa y en la comunidad.

Quédese en casa, excepto para conseguir atención médica

Debe restringir las actividades fuera de su casa, excepto para conseguir atención médica. No vaya al trabajo, la escuela o a áreas públicas. Evite usar el servicio de transporte público, vehículos compartidos o taxis.

Manténgase alejado de otras personas y de los animales en su casa

Personas: en la medida de lo posible, permanezca en una habitación específica y lejos de las demás personas que estén en su casa. Además, debería usar un baño aparte, de ser posible.

Animales: mientras esté enfermo, no manipule ni toque mascotas ni otros animales. Consulte [El COVID-19 y los animales](#) para obtener más información.

Llame antes de ir al médico

Si tiene una cita médica, llame al proveedor de atención médica y dígame que tiene o que podría tener COVID-19. Esto ayudará a que en el consultorio del proveedor de atención médica se tomen medidas para evitar que otras personas se infecten o expongan.

Use una mascarilla

Usted debería usar una mascarilla cuando esté cerca de otras personas (p. ej., compartiendo una habitación o un vehículo) o de mascotas y antes de entrar al consultorio de un proveedor de atención médica. Si no puede usar una mascarilla (por ejemplo, porque le causa dificultad para respirar), las personas que vivan con usted no deberían permanecer con usted en la misma habitación, o deberían ponerse una mascarilla si entran a su habitación.

Cúbrase la nariz y la boca al toser y estornudar

Cúbrase la nariz y la boca con un pañuelo desechable al toser o estornudar. Bote los pañuelos desechables usados en un bote de basura con una bolsa de plástico adentro; lávese inmediatamente las manos con agua y jabón por al menos 20 segundos o límpieselas con un desinfectante de manos que contenga al menos 60 % de alcohol, cubra todas las superficies de las manos y fróteselas hasta que sienta que se secaron. Si tiene las manos visiblemente sucias, es preferible usar agua y jabón.

Evite compartir artículos del hogar de uso personal

No debe compartir platos, vasos, tazas, cubiertos, toallas o ropa de cama con otras personas o mascotas que estén en su casa. Después de usar estos artículos, se los debe lavar bien con agua y jabón.

Límpiese las manos con frecuencia

Lávese frecuentemente las manos con agua y jabón por al menos 20 segundos. Si no hay agua y jabón disponibles, límpieselas con un desinfectante de manos que contenga al menos un 60 % de alcohol, cubra todas las superficies de las manos y fróteselas hasta que sienta que se secaron. Si tiene las manos visiblemente sucias, es preferible usar agua y jabón. Si evite tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca con las manos sin lavar.

Limpie todos los días todas las superficies de contacto frecuente

Las superficies de contacto frecuente incluyen los mesones, las mesas, las manijas de las puertas, las llaves y grifos del baño, los inodoros, los teléfonos, los teclados, las tabletas y las mesas de cama. Limpie también todas las superficies que puedan tener sangre, heces o líquidos corporales. Use un limpiador de uso doméstico, ya sea un rociador o una toallita, según las instrucciones de la etiqueta. Las etiquetas contienen instrucciones para el uso seguro y eficaz de los productos de limpieza, incluidas las precauciones que debería tomar cuando aplique el producto, como usar guantes y asegurarse de tener buena ventilación mientras lo esté usando.

Vigile sus síntomas

Busque atención médica rápidamente si su enfermedad empeora (p. ej., si tiene dificultad para respirar). Antes de hacerlo, llame a su proveedor de atención médica y dígame que tiene COVID-19, o que está siendo evaluado para determinar si lo tiene. Póngase una mascarilla antes de entrar al consultorio. Estas medidas ayudarán a que en el consultorio del proveedor de atención médica se pueda evitar la infección o exposición de las otras personas que estén en el consultorio o la sala de espera.

Pídale a su proveedor de atención médica que llame al departamento de salud local o estatal. Las personas que estén bajo monitoreo activo o automonitoreo facilitado deben seguir las indicaciones provistas por los profesionales de salud ocupacional o de su departamento de salud local, según corresponda.

Si tiene una emergencia médica o necesita llamar al 911, avísele al personal del centro de llamadas que tiene COVID-19 o lo están evaluando para determinarlo. De ser posible, póngase una mascarilla antes de que llegue el servicio médico de emergencias.

Interrupción del aislamiento en la casa

Los pacientes con COVID-19 confirmado deben permanecer bajo precauciones de aislamiento en la casa hasta que el riesgo de transmisión secundaria a otras personas se considere bajo. La decisión de interrumpir las precauciones de aislamiento en la casa debe tomarse según cada caso en particular, en consulta con proveedores de atención médica y departamentos de salud estatales y locales.



www.cdc.gov/COVID19-es