

INGLÉS

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Coronavirus symptoms: what are they and should I see a doctor?

What are the symptoms caused by the virus from Wuhan in China, how does it spread, and should you call a doctor?

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What is Covid-19 – the illness that started in Wuhan? It is caused by a member of the coronavirus family that has never been encountered before. Like other coronaviruses, it has come from animals.

What are the symptoms this coronavirus causes? The virus can cause pneumonia-like symptoms. Those who have fallen ill are reported to suffer coughs, fever and breathing difficulties. In severe cases there can be organ failure. As this is viral pneumonia, antibiotics are of no use. The antiviral drugs we have against flu will not work. Recovery depends on the strength of the immune system. Many of those who have died were already in poor health.

Should I go to the doctor if I have a cough? No. In the UK, the medical advice is now that the household of anyone who develops a new persistent cough or high temperature should all stay at home for 14 days, keeping away from other people. This applies to everyone, regardless of whether they have travelled abroad.

You should look on the dedicated [coronavirus NHS 111 website](#) for information. If you get worse or your symptoms last longer than seven days, you should call NHS 111. People will no longer be tested for the virus unless they are in hospital.

Is the virus being transmitted from one person to another? China's national health commission confirmed human-to-human transmission in January. There is now extensive human to human transmission across the world.

How many people have been affected? As of 15 March, **more than 182,000 people have been infected** in more than 80 countries, according to the [Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering](#).

There have been **over 7,500 deaths globally**. Just over 3,000 of those deaths have occurred in mainland [China](#). More than **79,000 people have recovered** from the coronavirus.

Why is this worse than normal influenza, and how worried are the experts? We don't yet know how dangerous the new coronavirus is, and we won't know until more data comes in, but estimates have ranged from well below 1% in the young to over 3% among those who are elderly or have underlying health conditions. Seasonal flu typically has a mortality rate below 1% and is thought to cause about [400,000 deaths](#) each year globally. Sars had a death rate of more than 10%.

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Another key unknown is how contagious the coronavirus is. A crucial difference is that unlike flu, there is no vaccine for the new coronavirus, which means it is more difficult for vulnerable members of the population – elderly people or those with existing respiratory or immune problems – to protect themselves. Hand-washing and avoiding other people if you feel unwell are important. One sensible step is to get the flu vaccine, which will reduce the burden on health services if the outbreak turns into a wider epidemic.

Have there been other coronaviruses? Severe acute respiratory syndrome (Sars) and Middle Eastern respiratory syndrome (Mers) are both caused by coronaviruses that came from animals. In 2002, Sars spread virtually unchecked to 37 countries, causing global panic, infecting more than 8,000 people and killing more than 750. Mers appears to be less easily passed from human to human, but has greater lethality, killing 35% of about 2,500 people who have been infected.

ACTIVITY

1. **UNDERLINE THE CORRECT OPTION** (Subrayar la respuesta correcta).

- The text is about different diseases in Argentina.
- The text gives information about risks, symptoms and prevention of Coronavirus.
- The text is about the specific case of a person with Coronavirus from Argentina.

2. **ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS** (Responder las siguientes preguntas).

- ✓ What do you know about Coronavirus?
- ✓ Which are the symptoms of Coronavirus?
- ✓ Did you know someone who had Coronavirus?
- ✓ What measures do you and your family take to prevent Coronavirus?

3. **FIND WORDS IN THE TEXT WITH THESE MEANINGS** (Encuentra palabras en el texto que correspondan a estas definiciones).

- Changes in the body that are signs of illness. (Paragraph 2)

- Tiny living thing that causes infectious disease. (Paragraph 5)

- Act of passing something from one person, place or thing to another. (Paragraph 5)

- Flu. Infectious disease caused by a virus. (Paragraph 8)

- Substance that is put into the blood and that protects the body from a disease. (Paragraph 9)

4. **TRUE (T) OR FALSE (F)? JUSTIFY THE FALSE ONES.** (Completar con verdadero o falso. Justificar las falsas.)

- Coronavirus has come from animals. _____
- Anyone with a persistent cough or high temperature should stay at home for 30 days, away from other people. _____
- China's national health commission confirmed human-to-human transmission in February. _____
- There isn't a vaccine for the new coronavirus. _____

5. **TRANSLATE THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH INTO SPANISH.** (Traducir el siguiente párrafo a Español)

“What are the symptoms this coronavirus causes? The virus can cause pneumonia-like symptoms. Those who have fallen ill are reported to suffer coughs, fever and breathing difficulties. In severe cases there can be organ failure. As this is viral pneumonia, antibiotics are of no use. The antiviral drugs we have against flu will not work. Recovery depends on the strength of the immune system. Many of those who have died were already in poor health.”