

CORONAVIRUS

Updates, Facts, & Resources

Last Updated:
March 5, 2020, 1:30pm EST

www.EdOdyssey.com/blog/covid19

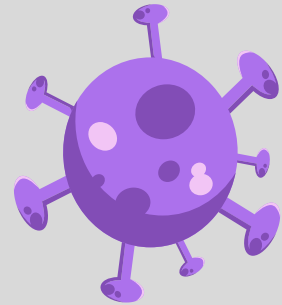


AN INTRODUCTION

As an educational initiative, a primary goal of EdOdyssey's work and programs has always been to break down barriers between people and cultures to foster understanding. The recent outbreak and spread of the coronavirus, now known as COVID-19, is a complex and unprecedented international situation.

Fears and concerns around this situation are understandable and as a team of avid travelers and passionate educators, EdOdyssey feel a responsibility to contribute to the conversation, sharing facts and updates.

Please visit www.EdOdyssey.com/blog/covid19 for more information, helpful resources, and to learn what we are doing.



WHAT IS THE CORONAVIRUS?

According to the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) -

“On February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced an official name for the disease that is causing the 2019 novel coronavirus outbreak, first identified in Wuhan, China. The new name of this disease is coronavirus disease 2019, abbreviated as COVID-19.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses. Some cause illness in people, and others, such as canine and feline coronaviruses, only infect animals. Animal coronaviruses that infect animals have emerged to infect people and can spread between people. This is suspected to have occurred for the virus that causes COVID-19.

While this virus seems to have emerged from an animal source, it is now spreading from person-to-person.”

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>

TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19

Person-to-person spread

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.

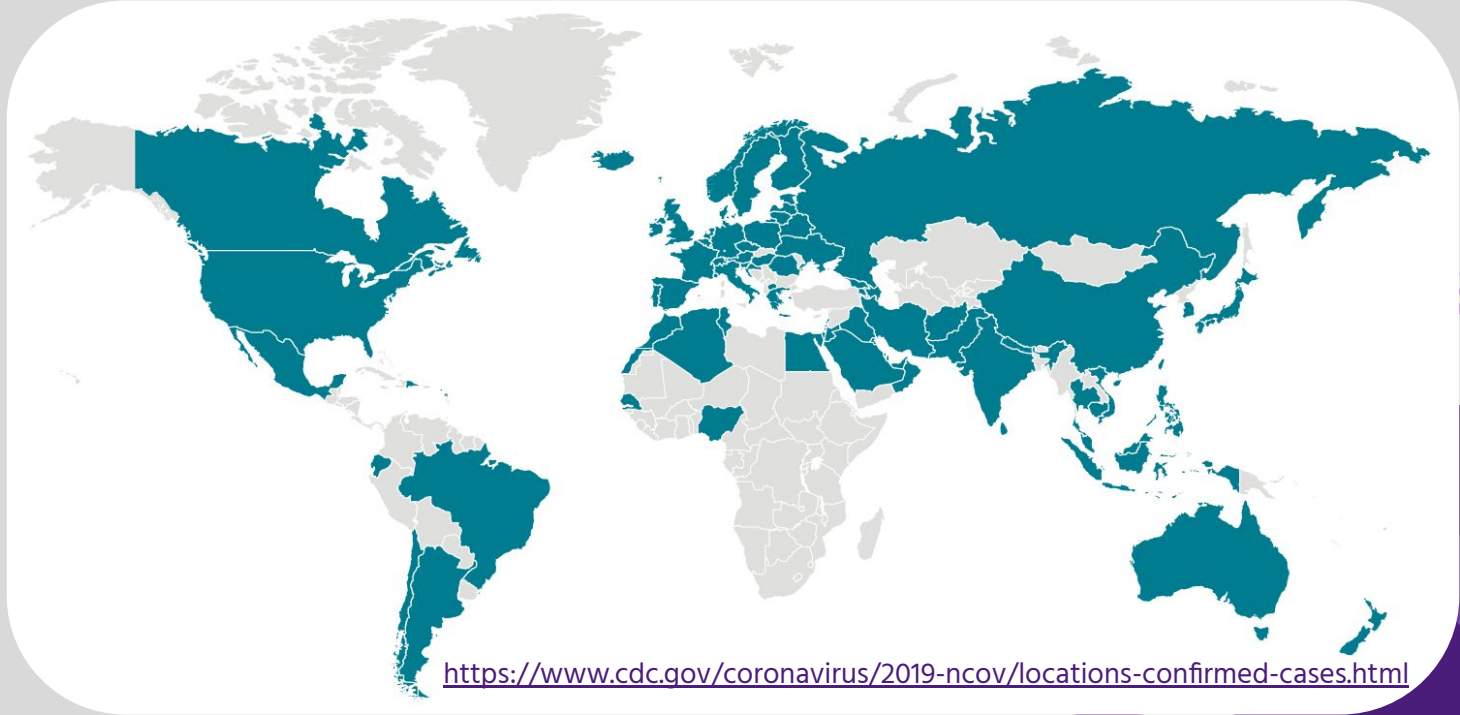
Spread from contact with infected surfaces or objects

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.



LOCATIONS AFFECTED GLOBALLY

AS OF MARCH 5, 2020



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/locations-confirmed-cases.html>



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AIR TRAVEL AND TRANSMISSION

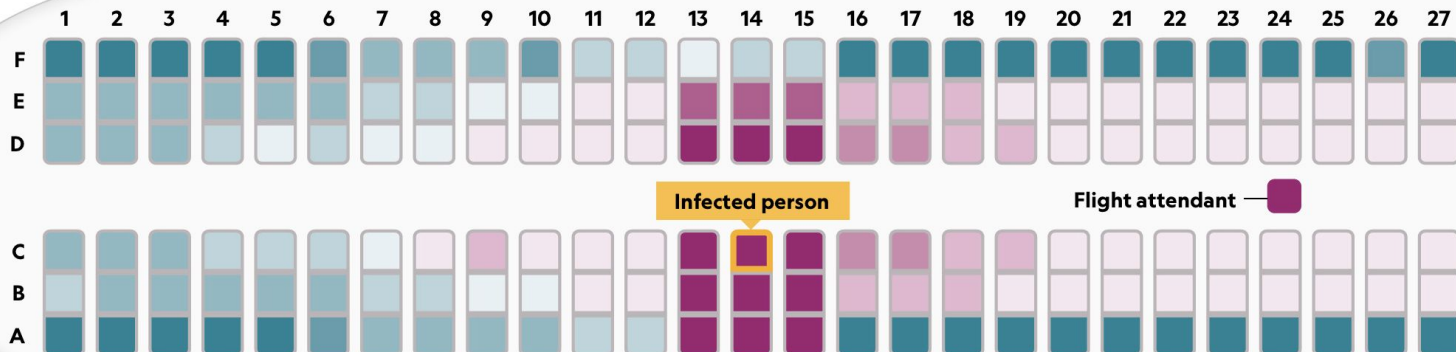
Passengers in window seats have the lowest likelihood of coming in contact with an infected person...

Probability of direct contact with the infected person

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100%



More likely than not to have contact

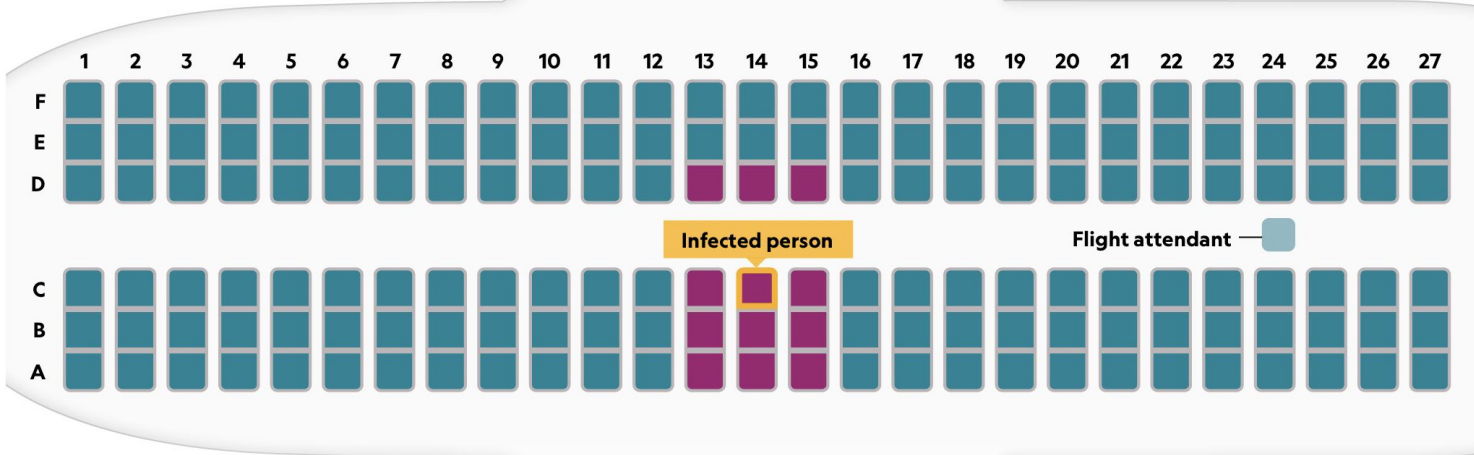


AIR TRAVEL AND TRANSMISSION

...but illnesses are most likely to be transmitted only to passengers within one row of the infected person.

Probability of being infected

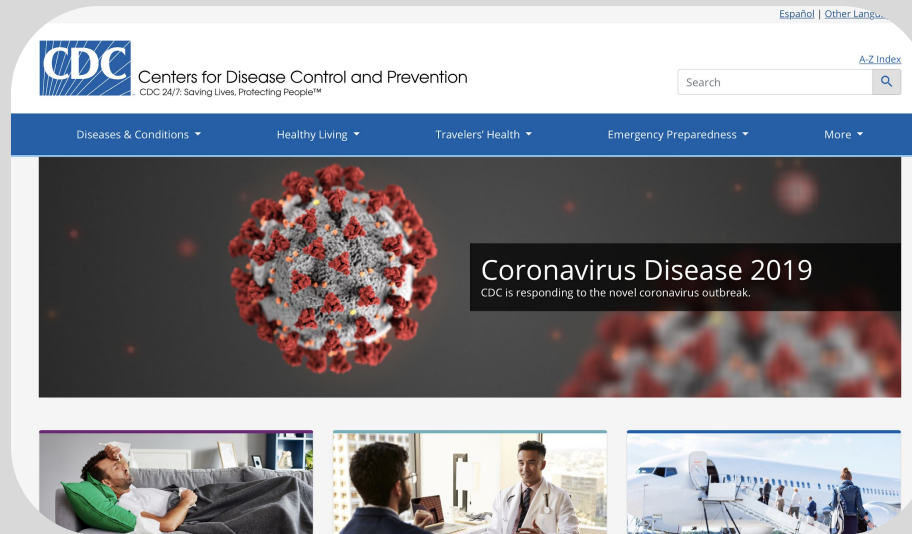
- Less than 1 percent
- 5 to 20
- 80 to 100



CDC - CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

CDC is the nation's health protection agency, working 24/7 to protect America from health and safety threats, both foreign and domestic.

The CDC updates their website with up-to-date information daily regarding the coronavirus outbreak. They offer additional information for specific groups, such as schools and travelers, as well as prevention, testing, treatment advice and FAQs.



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

CDC - ALERTS

The CDC categorizes the affected locations by three levels:

Watch - Level 1, Practice Usual Precautions

Travelers should avoid contact with sick people and clean their hands often by washing with soap and water.

Alert - Level 2, Practice Enhanced Precautions

Travelers should avoid contact with sick people and clean their hands often by washing with soap and water. Older adults and those with chronic medical conditions should consider postponing nonessential travel.

Warning - Level 3, Avoid Non-essential Travel

CDC recommends that travelers avoid all nonessential travel to affected locations, such as China, Iran, Italy, and South Korea.

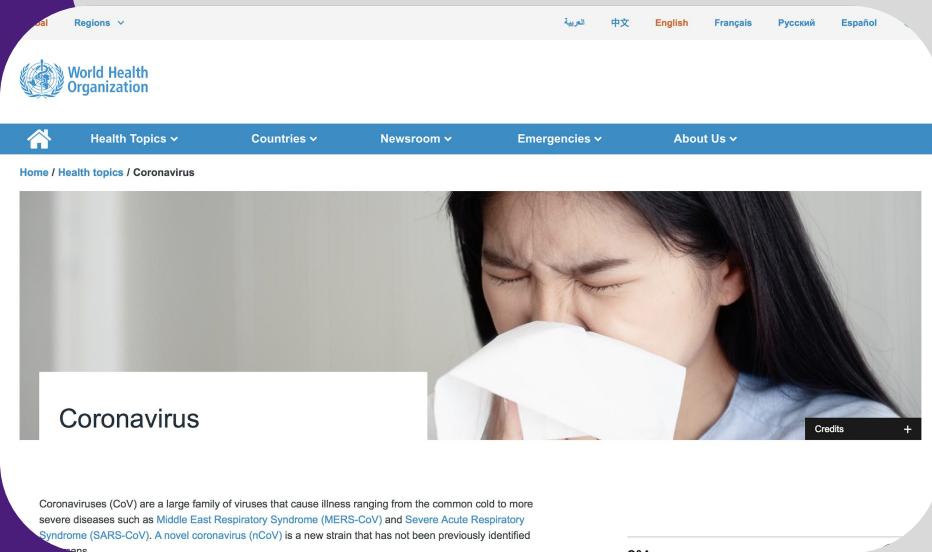
This information was last updated on March 2, 2020.



WHO - WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

WHO works worldwide to promote health and provide billions of people with information regarding health emergencies and support.

The WHO's page defines the coronavirus, has a Q&A available for visitors, and information with the latest updates on COVID-19.



<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>



WHO - MYTHBUSTERS

Does the new coronavirus affect older people, or are younger people also susceptible?

WHO advises people of all ages to take steps to protect themselves from the virus, for example by following good hand hygiene and good respiratory hygiene.

Are antibiotics effective in preventing and treating the new coronavirus?

The new coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a virus and, therefore, antibiotics should not be used as a means of prevention or treatment.

Can pets at home spread the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?

At present, there is no evidence that companion animals/pets such as dogs or cats can be infected with the new coronavirus. However, it is always a good idea to wash your hands with soap and water after contact with pets.

For more mythbusters, please visit WHO's website [here](#).



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The U.S. Department of State Travel Advisory System assesses the risk of traveling to a particular country or region for the U.S. public.

As of February 20, 2020, the Travel Advisory urges U.S. citizens to:

- Avoid contact with sick people and animals
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Closely monitor [Travel.state.gov](https://travel.state.gov) and [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) for important

The screenshot shows the homepage of Travel.State.Gov. At the top, there is a red banner with the text "Emergency Notification February 20, 2020" and "Emergency Alert: Novel Coronavirus". Below this, the website header includes the U.S. Department of State logo, the text "Travel.State.Gov U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE — BUREAU OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS", and a search bar. A navigation menu lists various services: U.S. Passports, International Travel, U.S. Visas, Intercountry Adoption, International Parental Child Abduction, and Records and Authentications. Below the menu, there are links for "Travel Advisories" and "Visa Alerts - Same". The main content area features a section titled "Current Outbreak of Coronavirus Disease 2019" with a red header. This section contains the text: "There is an ongoing worldwide outbreak of a respiratory illness first identified in Wuhan, China, caused by a novel (new) coronavirus. On February 11, 2020 the World Health Organization announced an official name for the disease that is causing the current outbreak of coronavirus disease, COVID-19." To the right of this section is a yellow box titled "Assistance for U.S. Citizens" which provides contact information for the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, including the address "No. 55 An Ji Lou Road, Chaoyang District, Beijing 10060, China" and phone numbers for "Telephone" (+86(10) 8531-4000) and "Emergency" (+86(10) 8531-4000).



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE - ALERTS

Level 1 – Exercise Normal Precautions

This is the lowest advisory level for safety and security risk.

Level 2 – Exercise Increased Caution

Be aware of heightened risks to safety and security. The Department of State provides additional advice for travelers in specific areas.

Level 3 – Reconsider Travel

Avoid travel due to serious risks to safety and security. The Department of State provides additional advice for travelers in these areas in the Travel Advisory.

Level 4 – Do Not Travel

This is the highest advisory level due to greater likelihood of life-threatening risks. The Department of State advises that U.S. citizens not travel to the country or leave as soon as it is safe to do so. *As of March 2nd, Iran and China are considered a Level 4 according to the Travel Advisory.*

This information was last updated on February 29, 2020.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>



SHOULD I WORRY?

This is a complicated, heartbreaking situation that has affected the lives of countless people around the world and, as of March 3, taken the lives of more than 3,000.

COVID-19, is a grave pathogenic threat that needs to be taken seriously. Luckily, there are some positive trends. Here are a few selected facts from RealClearScience to alleviate some concerns:

1. The number of cases in China is already falling significantly.

“Just three weeks ago, China was recording more than 3,000 new cases per day. Officials are now consistently reporting fewer than a thousand.”

2. The vast majority of cases are mild, and the death rate is likely lower than reported.

“A large study of 72,000 confirmed COVID-19 patients in China found that 81% of cases were mild, another 14% were severe (characterized by difficulty breathing), and 5% were critical. Overall, the death rate was 2.3 percent [and] the death rate could be even lower, as very mild cases of COVID-19 that resemble a common cold likely go unreported.”

3. There have been no reported deaths in young children.

“[T]here still have been no fatalities in children under the age of nine [and] only 2.4% of cases are in individuals under the age of 18. The death rate for people aged 10 to 39 currently stands at just 0.2 percent.”

For more details and other facts please visit this article by RealClearScience [here](#).



STIGMA & WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP



The Center for Disease Control and Prevention stated,

“Stigma hurts everyone by creating more fear or anger towards ordinary people instead of the disease that is causing the problem.”



Being of a specific ethnic or cultural descent **does not** increase the chance of getting or spreading COVID-19.

Help fight this global stigma surrounding COVID-19 by providing support and communicating accurate facts!

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/share-facts.html>



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HELPFUL RESOURCES & SOURCES

CDC - Center for Disease Control and Prevention

Overview: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

Situation Summary: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/summary.html>

Transmission: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/transmission.html>

Affected Locations: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/locations-confirmed-cases.html>

Stigma: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/related-stigma.html>

WHO - World Health Organization

Overview: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

Updates: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Mythbusters: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>

US State Department of State

Current Outbreak: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/ea/novel-coronavirus-hubei-province--china>

Travel Advisory: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html/>

National Geographic, Airplane Transmission:

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2020/01/how-coronavirus-spreads-on-a-plane/>

RealClearScience, Five Reasons You Don't Need to Panic About the COVID-19 Coronavirus:

https://www.realclearscience.com/blog/2020/02/29/five_reasons_you_dont_need_to_panic_about_the_covid-19_coronavirus.html

HELPFUL RESOURCES & SOURCES (continued)

NAFSA Critical Resources

Overview: <https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/coronavirus-critical-resources>

Federal Student Aid Office at U.S. Department of Education

Guidance for interruptions of study related to Coronavirus:

<https://ifap.ed.gov/electronic-announcements/030520Guidance4interruptionsrelated2CoronavirusCOVID19>