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Coronaviruses

What Is a Coronavirus?

Most coronaviruses spread the same way other cold-causing viruses do: through infected people coughing and sneezing, by touching an infected person's hands or face, or by touching things such as door knobs that infected people have touched.

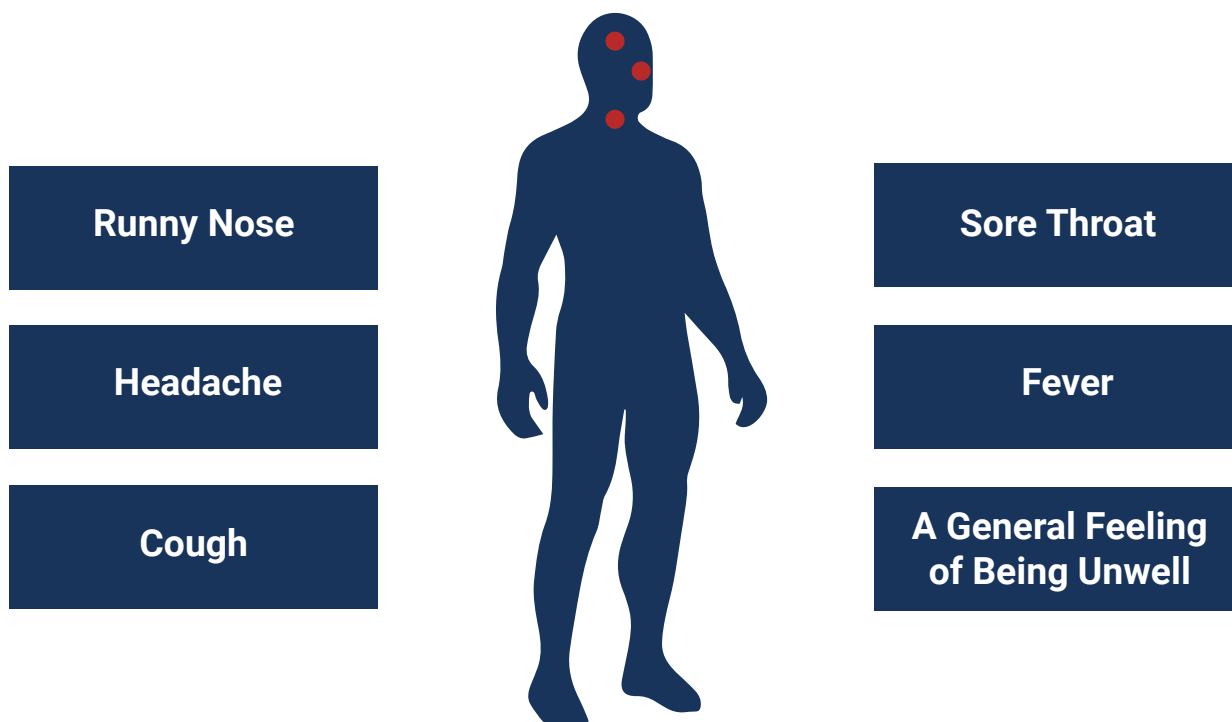
Virus causes respiratory infections, which are often mild, but are potentially lethal. There are no vaccines or antiviral drugs that are approved for prevention or treatment.

Currently there are seven known strains of Coronaviruses that infect humans. Coronaviruses are believed to cause a significant percentage of all common colds in human adults and children.

Symptoms

Common human coronaviruses

Common human coronaviruses, including types 229E, NL63, OC43, and HKU1, usually cause mild to moderate upper-respiratory tract illnesses, like the common cold. Most people get infected with these viruses at some point in their lives. These illnesses usually only last for a short amount of time. Symptoms may include:



Diagnosis

Your healthcare provider may order laboratory tests on respiratory specimens and serum (part of your blood) to detect human coronaviruses. Laboratory testing is more likely to be used if you have severe disease symptoms.

How is Coronavirus transmitted?

Viruses likely spreads from an infected person's respiratory secretions, such as through coughing and sneezing. Touching contaminated surface then touching mouth, nose or eyes.

Prevention

How to protect yourself

There are currently no vaccines available to protect you against human coronavirus infection. You may be able to reduce your risk of infection by doing the following:

- ✓ Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- ✓ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- ✓ Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- ✓ Avoid eating raw or uncooked food
- ✓ Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces

For information about hand washing, see CDC's Clean Hands Save Lives!
<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/>

How to protect others

If you have cold-like symptoms, you can help protect others by doing the following:

- ✓ Stay home while you are sick
- ✓ Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands