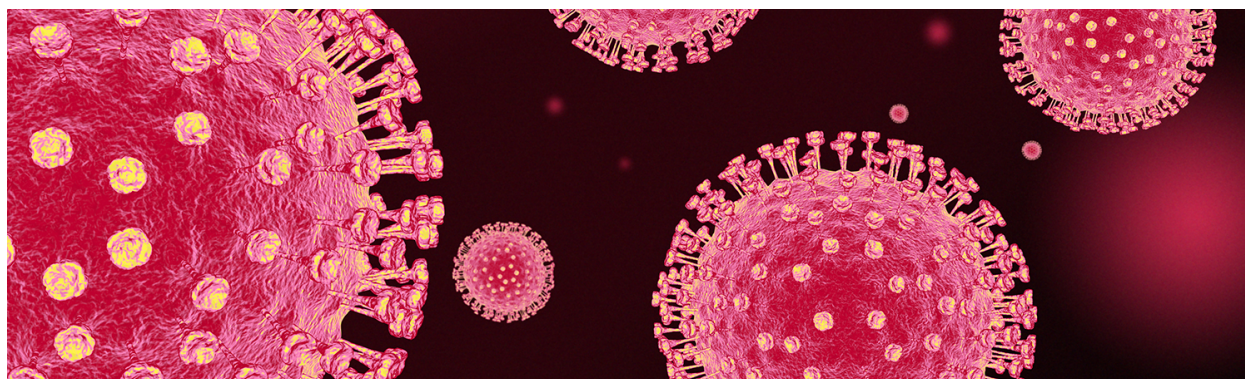




# Emergency

## Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)



The health of the UMB community is our top priority.

At this time, there have been **no confirmed cases** of the novel (new) coronavirus (2019-nCoV) at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB) or anywhere in the state of Maryland. This website is intended to provide our students, faculty, staff, and visitors with the latest information about the outbreak, measures implemented to reduce its spread, and the impact on travel and other activities.

UMB officials are actively monitoring the situation and will make every effort, working in conjunction with federal, state, and local health authorities, to provide information and implement policies intended to ensure the continued health and safety of our community.



**Wilbur Chen, MD, MS**, associate professor at the University of Maryland School of Medicine and infectious disease expert with the Center for Vaccine Development and Global Health, explains the basic facts about the novel coronavirus, how to identify its symptoms, and how to minimize risk of exposure.



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## About Novel Coronavirus (2019 nCoV)


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**What is novel coronavirus?** 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a virus (more specifically, a [coronavirus](#) ) identified as the cause of an outbreak of respiratory illness first detected in Wuhan, China (source: CDC). [Read more about 2019 novel coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#) .

**How is it transmitted?** Most often, spread from person-to-person happens among close contacts (about 6 feet). Person-to-person spread is thought to occur mainly via respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes, similar to how influenza and other respiratory pathogens spread (source: CDC). [Read more about how 2019-nCoV spreads](#) .

**What are the symptoms?** Commonly reported symptoms of 2019-nCoV infection include fever, cough, shortness of breath, and pneumonia. While the exact incubation period for this coronavirus has not yet been determined, it is believed that most infected people will develop symptoms two to 14 days after they were exposed (source: Maryland Department of Health).

**What should you do if you have symptoms?** Please read [Dr. Jarrell's letter to the UMB Community](#) of Jan. 23, 2020, for guidance on how to proceed if you believe you may have symptoms of novel coronavirus.

**What measures can you take to minimize risk of exposure?** There is currently no vaccine to prevent 2019-nCoV infection. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus. The World Health Organization (WHO) provides recommendations to reduce exposure to and transmission of a range of illnesses. [Read WHO advice for the public.](#) 

**Don't forget to protect yourself from another common virus, the flu (influenza).** Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine every season with rare exceptions. Vaccination is particularly important for people who are at high risk of serious [complications from influenza](#) . See [People at High Risk of Developing Flu-Related Complications](#)  for a full list of age and health factors that confer increased risk. To be clear, the influenza virus is a different virus from 2019-nCoV, and getting your flu shot will not protect you from 2019-nCoV. But both viruses are spread in the same fashion and we do have a vaccine to help prevent the spread of the flu. At this time in the United States, your risk of getting the flu is much greater than your risk of contracting 2019-nCoV.

## Travel Information

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Travel restrictions and advisories may change frequently. Please be aware of travel restrictions to and from China issued by the U.S. government, as well as policies and guidelines affecting UMB students, faculty, and staff.

[U.S. Department of State China travel advisory](#) 

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention information for travelers to and from China](#) 

[Guidance for University of Maryland, Baltimore travelers](#)

## Letters to the UMB community

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Feb. 1, 2020 [New procedures for UMB travelers from China](#)

Jan. 23, 2020 [Coronavirus Concerns](#)

## Useful website and video postings

Jan. 30, 2020 [UMB News: Experts Prepare for Potential Coronavirus Outbreak](#)

Jan. 27, 2020 [VIDEO: NIAID Director Anthony Fauci interview with JAMA](#) [↗](#)

Jan. 16, 2020 [World Health Organization: Coronavirus questions and answers](#) [↗](#)

## Resources

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) [↗](#)

[World Health Organization](#) [↗](#)

[Maryland Department of Health](#) [↗](#)

[Governor's coronavirus guidance](#) [↗](#)

[Washington, D.C., Health Department](#) [↗](#)

[Virginia Department of Health](#) [↗](#)

[Delaware Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health](#) [↗](#)

[UMB Student Counseling Center](#)

## World Health Organization Mythbusters

The World Health Organization, a division of the United Nations that specializes in international public health, [offers these answers to frequently asked questions about the novel coronavirus](#) [↗](#).



### **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. This protects you against various common bacteria such as E.coli and Salmonella that can pass between pets and humans.



### **DOES THE NEW CORONAVIRUS AFFECT OLDER PEOPLE, OR ARE YOUNGER PEOPLE ALSO SUSCEPTIBLE?**

People of all ages can be infected by the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV). Older people, and people with pre-existing medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease) appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus.

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?**

No, antibiotics do not work against viruses, only bacteria.

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

However, if you are hospitalized for the 2019-nCoV, you may receive antibiotics because bacterial co-infection is possible.



### **ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC MEDICINES TO PREVENT OR TREAT THE NEW CORONAVIRUS?**

To date, there is no specific medicine recommended to prevent or treat the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

However, those infected with the virus should receive appropriate care to relieve and treat symptoms, and those with severe illness should receive optimized supportive care. Some specific treatments are under investigation, and will be tested through clinical trials. WHO is helping to accelerate research and development efforts with a range of partners.

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