

Coronavirus information

1. How do you catch coronavirus?

The virus is passed from person to person. This happens, for example, when coughing, speaking or shaking hands with someone.

2. How can you tell if you have the virus?

If you have the coronavirus, you might get a cough, runny nose, sore throat and fever. It is very similar to flu. Some people also get diarrhoea. Some patients are worse off than others; they might get breathing problems or pneumonia. If you have the virus, it can take up to 14 days for these signs of illness to appear.

3. Why is the coronavirus dangerous?

For most people, the illness caused by the coronavirus is mild. However, around 15 percent of those infected become severely ill: they develop breathing problems and pneumonia. Those who have died from the virus so far have mostly been older patients and people who were already ill.

4. What do I have to do if I show signs of illness?

If you have a fever, a cough or shortness of breath and live in an area where there are already people infected with the virus, you should call a doctor and make an appointment.

If you have a fever, a cough or shortness of breath, you should have as little contact with other people as possible. Keep at least 1.5 or 2 meters away from other people. If possible, stay at home or in your room. Cough and sneeze into the crook of your arm, or into a tissue, which you then immediately dispose of in a rubbish bin. Wash your hands often and thoroughly (especially after using the toilet and before preparing food).

5. What do I have to do if I've been in contact with an infected person?

If you had personal contact with a person who has the coronavirus, call your doctor or your local public health authority (Gesundheitsamt) and tell them about your situation. The line may be busy if a large number of people are calling at the same time. In this case, please call the Federal Ministry of Health (Bundesministerium für Gesundheit) on 030 346 465 100. Advice on this line is only available in German. If you live in a reception centre or shared accommodation, immediately inform the management of the facility or social services. Also inform your school, language school, the place where you are being trained or work etc.

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