



Frequently Asked Questions for Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Q1. What is a Coronavirus?
A: Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can infect both animals and humans. Some Coronaviruses infect people and cause mild to severe respiratory diseases.
Q2. What is 2019-novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?
A: The 2019-nCoV is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been identified in humans before. The virus was first detected in Wuhan, China in December 2019.
Q3. Has the cases of 2019-nCoV reported in Pakistan?
A: As of 05 February 2020, not a single case of 2019-nCoV has been reported in Pakistan.
Q4. Is the new virus the same as SARS or MERS?
A: No, 2019-nCoV is from the same family of viruses as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), but it is not the same virus.
Q5. Is 2019-nCoV rapidly mutating?
A: No, the 2019-nCoV is relatively stable. Compared to an influenza virus, the 2019-nCoV is less likely to undergo genetic mutations.
Q6. How long is the incubation period of this virus?
A: The incubation period is the time between infection and the onset of clinical symptoms of disease. According to WHO, the current estimates of the incubation period range from 1-12.5 days. Based on information from other coronavirus diseases, such as MERS and SARS, the incubation period of 2019-nCoV could be up to 14 days.
Q7. What are the symptoms of 2019-nCoV?
A: Major symptoms include cough, fever, and shortness of breath. Minor symptoms include sputum production, coughing blood or blood-stained mucus, and headache.
Q8. How this new virus spreads?

A: The 2019-nCoV is a respiratory virus which spreads primarily through contact with an infected person or through respiratory droplets for example, coughs or sneezes, or through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose.

Q9. What is the best way to prevent the spread of this virus?

A: Currently there is no vaccination available. Therefore, it is important that everyone should practice good respiratory hygiene. For example, sneeze or cough into a flexed elbow, or use a tissue paper and discard it immediately into a closed bin. Frequent handwashing with soap and water or using an alcohol-based hand rub is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of this virus.

Q10. Is there a treatment / antiviral drug available?

A: Currently there is no specific drug or antiviral available; scientists are trying antiretroviral drugs to treat this virus.

Q11. Are animals spreading 2019-nCoV?

A: No, while the virus probably emerged in animals, it is now spreading from person-to-person

Q12. Do migratory birds carry this virus around and spread it?

A: No, there is no evidence that migratory wild birds carry 2019-nCoV or spread this virus.

Q13. Can I get this virus from my pets?

A: No, at present there is no evidence that pets such as cats and dogs have been infected or have spread 2019-nCoV.

Q14. Can I get this virus by eating foods of animal origin (mutton, beef, poultry, eggs, milk)?

A: Currently, there is no evidence that you could get 2019-nCoV by eating animal meat.

Q15. Where can I get most up-to-date and authentic information on 2019-nCoV?

A: The World Health Organization <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019> The Center of Diseases Control and Prevention (USA) <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/> and The Ministry of National Health Services Regulation and Coordination, Government of Pakistan <http://www.nhsrvc.gov.pk/> have web links on this developing situation and these links are being regularly updated.

Q16. I have more questions, where can I look?

A: You can look up at WHO and CDC Q&A links:

WHO: <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>

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