

Information about Coronaviruses

This handout provides basic information about the different types of coronaviruses. Talk to your child's primary care provider if you have any concerns about these illnesses.

What is a coronavirus?

Coronavirus (*co-ro-nah-vy-rus*) is a type of respiratory virus that can infect humans and cause a variety of illnesses ranging from the common cold to pneumonia or bronchitis.

What are the different types of illnesses caused by coronaviruses?

There are 7 different types of coronaviruses. The most common is the one that infects most people and causes the common cold. This usually lasts only for a few days and has symptoms like runny nose, headache, cough, sore throat, fever or just generally not feeling well.

Other types can cause more serious illnesses like pneumonia or bronchitis. Some of the more severe symptoms include fever, chills, cough, and shortness of breath and body aches.

How does a coronavirus spread?

Coronaviruses are typically spread through:

- Direct contact with someone who has an infection such as touching or shaking hands.
 - Touching something that someone with an infection may have touched, and not washing your hands right away.
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How do I prevent an infection?

If you feel that you or your child may have come into contact with someone who may be infected with a coronavirus:

- Clean all surfaces like counters, doorknobs, phones, keyboards and any areas that you touch by using a household disinfectant or a cleaner that contains bleach.
 - Talk to your primary care provider if you notice symptoms like cough, fever, sore throat, body aches, trouble breathing or a general sense of being unwell.
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To Learn More

- Infectious Diseases and Virology
206-987-2073
- Ask your child's healthcare provider
- seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask your nurse.
- From outside the hospital, call the toll-free Family Interpreting Line, 1-866-583-1527. Tell the interpreter the name or extension you need.



Seattle Children's offers interpreter services for Deaf, hard of hearing or non-English speaking patients, family members and legal representatives free of charge. Seattle Children's will make this information available in alternate formats upon request. Call the Family Resource Center at 206-987-2201. This handout has been reviewed by clinical staff at Seattle Children's. However, your child's needs are unique. Before you act or rely upon this information, please talk with your child's healthcare provider.

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