

# What Tribal Members need to know about COVID-19

## What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronaviruses are a type of virus (germ) that can cause cold-like symptoms and sometimes serious problems with lungs and breathing. COVID-19 is a novel (new) coronavirus.

## What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Mild to severe respiratory illness, or problems with lungs and breathing. Symptoms include:

- **Fever, cough, and shortness of breath**

## How does COVID-19 spread?

Person to person by coughing, sneezing, or personal contact like touching or shaking hands. Someone with mild symptoms may spread the disease without knowing they are sick.

## Who is most at risk?

Anyone can get COVID-19. Those at risk of severe illness include:

- o **Elders and adults over 60 years of age,**
- o **People with heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes.**

## How can I protect myself and my family?

**Stay at home.** "Social distancing" is recommended. This means keeping your family at home and away from others who may be sick.

- If you must go out, try to stay 6 feet away from others.
- Avoid gatherings with other people.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Do not shake hands, hug, or touch others.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.

## Have there been cases of COVID-19 in our state?

Yes, there have been cases in all 50 states.



## If someone gets sick, what can they do?

- **If someone thinks they have been around someone with COVID-19 and they get a fever and symptoms such as cough or trouble breathing, they should call their healthcare provider or local Indian Health Service unit for medical advice.**
- In an emergency, call 911.
- People who are mildly sick with COVID-19 do not need to see a healthcare provider and are able to recover at home.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash hands.
- Stay home and away from others for 14 days to avoid getting others sick.
- Caregivers should keep sick family members away from others in the home and clean and disinfect surfaces and items that are touched often, like door handles, sink handles, toilets, remote controls, etc.

## Is there a vaccine or treatment?

There is no vaccine. The best way to reduce the risk of getting sick with COVID-19 is to practice social distancing and healthy habits like washing hands regularly.

There is no specific treatment for COVID-19, but medical care can help relieve symptoms. If you are sick, call your healthcare provider for instructions.

For more information:  
**[CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)**



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Effective March 26, 2020  
Source: CDC