

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Background and Prevention

What is Coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which may cause illness in animals or humans. In humans, several coronaviruses are known to cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The most recently discovered coronavirus causes coronavirus disease COVID-19.

What are symptoms of COVID-19?

Common signs of infection are fever, tiredness, and dry cough. Some patients may have aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea. These symptoms are usually mild and begin gradually. People with fever, cough and difficulty breathing should seek medical attention.

How does it spread?

People can catch COVID-19 from others who have the virus. The disease can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth which are spread when a person with COVID-19 coughs or exhales. These droplets land on objects and surfaces around the person. Other people then catch COVID-19 by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose or mouth. People can also catch COVID-19 if they breathe in droplets from a person with COVID-19 who coughs out or exhales droplets. This is why it is important to stay more than 1 meter (3 feet) away from a person who is sick.

How to Prepare and Stay Healthy

- Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub
- Avoid close contact with others who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Stay home when you are sick. Keep your children home from school if they are sick.
- Cover coughs/sneezes with a tissue and dispose of the tissue in the trash
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Face-masks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19
- Seek medical attention if you present any of the symptoms related to COVID-19

Stay Updated.



Frequently check the following websites for updates, alerts and important information:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): www.cdc.gov/
- Florida Department of Health (FDOH): www.floridahealth.gov/
- World Health Organization (WHO): www.who.int/

The Town of Surfside continues to monitor for updates pertaining to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and will share any necessary alerts on www.townofsurfsidefl.gov. Please check additional media outlets such as local and national news for breaking, developing updates.

