

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Information Center

We understand you may have many questions regarding COVID-19 (novel coronavirus). Hinds Hospice has developed this online information hub to keep you informed and help answer questions you may have about this quickly evolving topic.

What are human coronaviruses?

Human coronaviruses are a family of viruses that commonly cause mild to moderate illnesses like the common cold. Almost everyone gets infected with one of these viruses at some point in their lives, and most of the time the illness lasts for a short amount of time.

Where can patients, family members and community members find more information about COVID-19?

You can find the most up-to-date information about COVID-19 from the Centers for Disease Control at www.cdc.gov.

What is the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)? What are the symptoms?

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), a novel coronavirus is a new coronavirus that has not been previously identified. The virus causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is not the same as the coronaviruses that commonly circulate among humans and cause mild illness, like the common cold. For confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death. Symptoms can include fever, cough and shortness of breath. You can learn more at [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html)

What should I do if I, or a family member, is ill or showing symptoms?

If you have any questions or concerns about you or your family's health, first call your primary care physician for screening. If your family member is experiencing a medical emergency, please call 911 or visit the closest emergency department. If an emergency room visit is appropriate, please let staff know about your possible exposure and/or symptoms immediately on arrival.

What can I do to reduce my risk of contracting COVID-19?

The risk of Americans contracting coronavirus remains low and there is little cause for concern unless you have recently traveled near the epicenter in Wuhan, China, other countries currently experiencing outbreaks of the disease (including Iran, Italy, Japan or South Korea) or been in contact with someone who has. The same measures that can prevent someone from spreading other respiratory viruses, like the flu, can help reduce the risk of spreading the novel coronavirus. This includes proper hand hygiene, avoiding people who have symptoms, covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing and keeping children home from daycare or school if they have symptoms. Additionally, clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe and if sick, stay home and avoid contact with others.

What is Hinds Hospice doing as a precaution to protect patients and staff members?

In order to keep patients, families and healthcare providers as safe as possible from the spread of respiratory viruses – including COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) – additional screening precautions, visitor restrictions and program changes are in effect at all Hinds Hospice locations. At this time, visitors to our Inpatient Facility in Fresno will be limited to immediate family only. Visitors will be screened with questions regarding health and recent travel history. Visitors with a fever of 100.4 or greater will not be permitted entrance. Other visitors and non-essential vendors will not be allowed in our facilities.

What if I have other questions?

You can find answers to other frequently asked questions on this quick resource guide, available for download in [English \(PDF\)](#) and [Spanish \(PDF\)](#).

Other resources:

- Centers for Disease Control website: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus
- California Department of Public Health website: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov>