

COVID-19 FAQs

**NOTE – this section will be updated with information as it becomes available

1. If airborne or droplet precautions are sufficient PPE, as opposed to the special contact precautions as currently implemented?
2. Are droplet precautions sufficient rather than airborne precautions?
3. How easily is the virus spread and transmitted? Is there a significant role for fecal-oral transmission or transmission via asymptomatic carriers?
4. What is the true incubation period and are people infectious prior to the development of symptoms?
5. How long do people need to self-quarantine for after exposure? Is it truly 14-days or is a longer time period necessary?
6. How many days does it take until a patient recovers from illness?
7. What puts people at elevated risk for developing sepsis, respiratory failure, or multi-organ failure?
8. What is the protective mechanism in pediatric patients?
9. Do pediatric patients get infected and become asymptomatic carriers, or do they not even contract the illness?
10. Are there diseases or risk factors that place children at higher risk for severe disease?
11. Are patients who are asymptomatic contagious, given that they likely are already shedding virus in their secretions and / or stool?
12. Can you get the infection again after you have been exposed?
13. Do you develop any long term immunity after exposure?
14. When do previously infected persons stop shedding the virus and when are they no longer contagious?
15. Once community spread begins, how long until the rate of spread within the community begins to slow down?
16. How long does the virus live on a surface for without decontamination?
17. What would be considered a high risk exposure to a person with COVID-19 (i.e. do you need to be sneezed or coughed on to have a high risk exposure)?
18. Does the amount of virus that you are exposed to correlate with how severe of an illness you develop?
19. Will this become a regular infection in humans like other viral URI illnesses (e.g. adenovirus, influenza virus)?
20. Will transmission sustain in the warmer summer months or does it have a seasonal pattern such as influenza?
21. Is the virus capable of mutating and causing more severe or mild illness or re-infection of previously infected persons?