



COVID 19 FAQs

1. What's the difference between the new coronavirus and other coronaviruses?

SARS killed 774 people in 2003. COVID-19 has a bigger pre-symptomatic period. People who contracted SARS got sick quickly and that made contact tracing easier but people who have been infected with COVID 19 don't have symptoms but are still contagious for three or four days which makes contact tracing very difficult.

2. What's working in terms of prevention and treatment?

Social distancing is all we've got. To date, there is no specific medicine recommended to prevent or treat the new coronavirus. People who are infected can receive care to relieve symptoms, and those who develop severe illness can be hospitalized to receive supportive care such as getting oxygen and other treatments and being put on a ventilator if all else fails.

3. How long does it live on various surfaces?

The coronavirus' survival depends on the type of surface it lands on as well as the overall environment. Depending on the material, the virus can survive from three hours to seven days.

Glass – up to 5 days

Wood – up to 4 days

Plastic and stainless-steel - up to 3 days

Cardboard - up to 24 hours

Copper surfaces - up to 4 hours

4. Can coronavirus live in heat?

Absolutely yes but there's discussion about warm weather helping with social distancing as people are outside more, greater heat causes more humidity inhibiting the virus' ability to be spread as easily and the sun's UV rays works to neutralise the virus' potency. Overall though, there is no doubt that warm weather does not kill the virus.

5. Are recovered people immune to the virus?

Health experts don't know yet if people who recover from COVID-19 can get infected again. Some early research suggests that there is a chance people develop immunity, but it's not clear how long it may last and what the underlying long-term health complications are from recovered patients.