

## 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS



### What is a coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases. On 31 December 2019, the Government of China reported a cluster of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan, Hubei Province. A new coronavirus was eventually identified. Little is known about this new virus. The virus has expanded mainly in China and to other several countries.

### How does novel coronavirus spread?

Health experts are still learning the details about how this new coronavirus spreads. Other coronaviruses spread from an infected person to others through:

- The air by coughing and sneezing
- Touching a contaminated surface by the secretions containing the virus, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- In rare cases, contact with feces

### What are the symptoms of someone infected with a coronavirus?

It depends on the virus, but common signs include fever, cough, shortness of breath, and breathing difficulties. Symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus. In more severe cases, infection can cause pneumonia, severe acute respiratory syndrome, kidney failure and even death.

### How can I prevent getting novel coronavirus?

Right now, no case of the novel coronavirus has been declared in Ethiopia. Steps you can take to prevent spread of flu and common cold will also help prevent coronavirus:

- Wash hands often with soap and water, alternatively use hand sanitizer
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoid contact with people who are sick
- Stay home while you are sick and avoid close contact with others
- Cover your mouth/nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing



### What should I do in case I present symptoms?

If you have travel history or been in contact with someone having travelled from one of the affected countries in the last 14 days and, now experience fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties, please call immediately the Hotline UN clinic at **+251 929908433 or 8355** for medical assistance. While seeking for medical assistance, wear mask and limit your contact with other people. Also, take all preventive measures above.

**Please note**, there is no vaccine and cure yet until one is developed! However, many of the symptoms can be treated and therefore treatment is based on the patient's clinical condition. Moreover, supportive care for infected persons can be highly effective.

To learn more visit: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019> or call 8335.