

# COVID-19

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans.

Much remains to be understood about the new coronavirus, which was first identified in China in early January 2020. The source of infection remains unknown.

For current advice on the number of confirmed cases, visit the [novel coronavirus webpage](http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/838/novel-coronavirus) (<http://conditions.health.qld.gov.au/HealthCondition/condition/14/217/838/novel-coronavirus>).

## Public health management guidelines

- Read [Communicable Diseases Network Australia guidelines](https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm) (<https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/cdna-song-novel-coronavirus.htm>)

(<https://www1.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/ohp-2019-nCoV-areas.htm>)

### Enhanced surveillance for public health units

- [Case report form](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0030/945093/CRF-COVID-19.pdf) ([https://www.health.qld.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0030/945093/CRF-COVID-19.pdf](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0030/945093/CRF-COVID-19.pdf)) – used by public health units to collect and manage more detailed information for enhanced case surveillance.

## Resources for health professionals

- [Information for Queensland clinicians—novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/novel-coronavirus-qld-clinicians) (<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/clinical-practice/guidelines-procedures/novel-coronavirus-qld-clinicians>) - Additional information and factsheets to assist Queensland clinicians to diagnose and/or treat patients with suspected or confirmed novel coronavirus (COVID-19).
- [Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare \(2019\)](https://app.magicapp.org/goto/guideline/Jn37kn/section/jX2gxn) (<https://app.magicapp.org/goto/guideline/Jn37kn/section/jX2gxn>) - National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines provide information about standard and additional precautions, including recommended cleaning and duration of precautions (Table A2.3).
- [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Outbreaks in Residential Care Facilities](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidelines-for-outbreaks-in-residential-care-facilities) (<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidelines-for-outbreaks-in-residential-care-facilities>) - CDNA National Guidelines for the Prevention, Control and Public Health Management of COVID-19 Outbreaks in Residential Care Facilities in Australia.

### Other resources

- [Australian Government Department of Health](https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov) (<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>)
- [Smart traveller](https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/news-and-updates/novel-coronavirus-outbreak) (<https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/news-and-updates/novel-coronavirus-outbreak>)
- [World Health Organization](https://www.who.int/westpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus) (<https://www.who.int/westpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>)
- [Fact sheet novel coronavirus](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0031/935365/2019-nCoV-information-education-services-V1.pdf) ([https://www.health.qld.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0031/935365/2019-nCoV-information-education-services-V1.pdf](https://www.health.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0031/935365/2019-nCoV-information-education-services-V1.pdf))