

# COVID-19 (NOVEL CORONAVIRUS)

**WE HELP TO PROTECT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY**

**HAND HYGIENE**

**SURFACE AND FLOOR HYGIENE**

**TEXTILE HYGIENE**

**FEEL OUR PASSION**



**CHRISTEYNS**

Since early January 2020 an increasing number of infections with an unknown virus, causing symptoms greatly resembling viral pneumonia, have been reported in China. The outbreak, including some fatal cases, began in Wuhan City (China), but in the meantime cases have already been reported worldwide. The virus is spreading rapidly and has been identified as a novel type of **coronavirus, COVID-19**.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF THE VIRUS

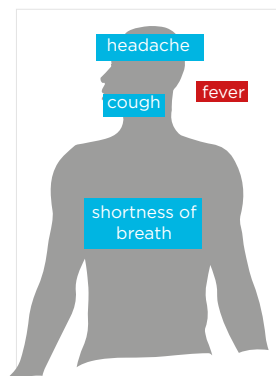
This novel coronavirus belongs to a family of viruses that include the common cold, and viruses such as SARS and MERS.

Some coronaviruses can cause illness in animals. Rarely animal coronaviruses can infect people. This new type is named COVID-19. It is also referred to as Wuhan coronavirus. It is an enveloped, single-stranded RNA virus **sensitive to disinfection and bleach**.

## SYMPTOMS

For confirmed COVID-19 infections, reported illnesses have ranged from people being mildly sick to people being severely ill and dying. Symptoms can include:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Headache



The virus leads to a serious form of pneumonia and can be fatal. The symptoms of COVID-19 may appear in as few as **2 days** or as long as **14 days** after exposure. This is based on what has been seen previously as the incubation period of MERS viruses.

## MODE OF TRANSMISSION

Most initial patients had reported exposure to a seafood and live animal market, suggesting a zoonotic source of the outbreak. According to researchers, it is likely that bats are the native host of COVID-19.

Where human-to-human transmission occurs, it will most likely be

- through direct contact with case-patients,
- by respiratory droplets, and
- by contaminated surfaces and objects, as is also seen with SARS and MERS-infections.

## GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 Monitor official news sources
- 2 Avoid close contact with infected persons.
- 3 Frequently clean and disinfect hands, using alcohol-based hand rub.
- 4 Perform regular cleaning and disinfection of surfaces, floors and textiles.
- 5 If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care and share previous travel and contact history.
- 6 When coughing or sneezing, cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue. Throw tissue away immediately and wash hands.
- 7 Avoid consumption of raw or undercooked animal products.
- 8 Clean and disinfect hands and surfaces when cooking food to avoid contamination.

## USE DISINFECTANTS TO MINIMISE THE RISKS

Enveloped viruses such as this novel corona virus are **sensitive to a broad range of disinfectants**, and are much easier to kill than non-enveloped viruses such as Norovirus. It is expected that disinfectants with limited virucidal action (effective against enveloped viruses) are sufficient to kill novel Corona virus when taking into account the label instructions. Obviously, virucidal disinfectants (against the more resistant non-enveloped viruses) can also be applied.

Disinfectants should meet the **EN 14476** and/or **EN 16777** standards or the Guidelines of the Robert Koch Institute.

Our general recommendations are as followed :

### HAND AND SKIN HYGIENE

- Wash your hands frequently with water and soap.
- Remove all visible dirt
- Use an alcohol-based hand rub to disinfect



### SURFACE AND FLOOR HYGIENE

- Clean surfaces and floors regularly.
- Remove all visible dirt
- Disinfect with a disinfectant that has been approved for its virucidal properties. Christeyns had several solutions, based on peracetic acid or quaternary ammonium compounds.
- There is currently no evidence that food is a likely source of transmission of the virus. Nevertheless, the standard hygiene routines need to be followed strictly. It is recommended to take precautionary measures during food handling and preparation such as washing hands and disinfecting surfaces and machinery regularly to avoid cross-contamination.

### TEXTILE HYGIENE

As a precaution, laundries may wish to disinfect the healthcare linen. It is advised to do this either with an RKI listed AB process, or with another wash process that complies with the EN 14476 standard. Christeyns can offer an extensive range of approved wash processes. Please check with your local representative for a solution that fits your particular situation.



## SOURCES

[www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019](http://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019)

[www.health.belgium.be/nl/veelgestelde-vragen-over-het-nieuw-coronavirus](http://www.health.belgium.be/nl/veelgestelde-vragen-over-het-nieuw-coronavirus)

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/wuhan-novel-coronavirus/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/wuhan-novel-coronavirus/)

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/controlguideline/Pages/novel-coronavirus.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/controlguideline/Pages/novel-coronavirus.aspx)

[www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-01/23/c\\_138728428.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-01/23/c_138728428.htm)

### Real concerns about coronavirus?

Please listen to and follow the directives issued by your country's public health authority.

Check the recommendations of the **World Health Organisation**  
**[www.who.int](http://www.who.int)**