Coronavirus is a new disease, and there is still a lot that is unknown. The following is the latest information from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Stay up-to-date by going to cdc.gov/coronavirus or talking to your healthcare provider, your national public health authority, and your employer.

What is it? Coronavirus, now called COVID-19, is a new respiratory disease that was first detected in 2019 in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. It has since spread worldwide, including to the U.S.

How serious is it? Most people (about 80%) with the disease have recovered without special treatment and from only mild symptoms. About 1 in 6 becomes seriously ill and develops difficulty breathing. Older people, and those with underlying medical issues such as high blood pressure, heart problems, or diabetes, are more likely to become seriously ill. The death rate, based on the latest worldwide information, is an estimated 2% or slightly less. COVID-19 was declared a public health emergency for the U.S. in January 2020.

How does it spread? The virus seems to spread in these ways (the first two are most common)

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (about 6 feet)
- From respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or exhales. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses or people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- By touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching your mouth, nose or possibly eyes.

Is there a vaccine, drug or treatment for COVID-19? Not yet, but possible vaccines and drugs are being investigated.

People affected should seek medical care to relieve symptoms, and those who are seriously ill should be hospitalized. Because this disease is a viral and not bacterial infection, antibiotics do not help.

Should I worry? It is understandable that people are concerned, as health authorities still do not know how far this disease will spread or how serious it will be. However, if you are not in an area where COVID-19 is spreading, or if you have not traveled from one of those areas or been in close contact with someone who has and is feeling unwell, your chances of getting it are currently low.

Signs & Symptoms: COVID-19 has caused just mild symptoms in some to severe illness and death in others. The most common symptoms are:
- Fever
- Tiredness
- Dry Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Some patients have aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea. These symptoms are usually mild and begin gradually.

IF THERE IS AN OUTBREAK IN YOUR AREA

Take the risk of infection seriously and follow the advice issued by national and local health authorities. In case you are not able to get out, or there is a disruption in supply, consider these precautions now for yourself and others in your household:

- Refill current prescriptions
- Stock up on common household medications, such as pain relievers, cold and flu remedies, and liquids with electrolytes
- Store a 2-week supply of nonperishable food and water per person
- Buy a month’s worth of soap, detergent, disinfectant, baby supplies and other essentials you may need