

Discharge to Home with Confirmed Coronavirus (COVID-19)

You are being sent home with a diagnosis of COVID-19, also known as novel coronavirus.

While you are at home, it is important that you isolate yourself from others and watch for worsening symptoms. (Follow the guidelines below.)

Go to the closest emergency department or call 911 if you:

- have trouble breathing or are so short of breath that you can't speak a sentence without stopping to breathe
- feel so weak that you can't walk to the bathroom or care for yourself
- are confused
- have low blood pressure.

If you feel worse, but your symptoms aren't this bad, call your provider's office. If you can't reach a health care provider, call our COVID-19 hotline at 888-312-0847.

To protect health care workers and prevent the spread of the disease, tell your health care team that you have COVID-19 whenever you seek medical help.

You must continue to isolate yourself:

- for at least 7 days from when your symptoms began
- AND until your fever has been gone for at least 3 days without taking any medicines that can reduce your fever

- AND your symptoms improve (for example, your cough gets better).

Follow these guidelines for isolating yourself to protect others:

Stay home unless you need medical care.

Until you no longer need to isolate yourself from others (see above), don't go to work, school, or public areas. And avoid using public transportation (buses, ride-sharing, or taxis).

Clean your hands often.

Use soap and water if you can see dirt on your hands, and wash for at least 20 seconds. Otherwise, you can use a hand sanitizer that has 60 to 95% alcohol in it. Rub it over all the surfaces of your hands until dry.

Regularly clean surfaces that you touch.

Clean counters, tabletops, doorknobs, bathroom fixtures, phones, keyboards, and other things that you touch a lot. Also, clean any surfaces that have your blood, stool, or body fluids on them.

Use disinfecting household spray or wipes and follow the instructions for safe use.

Wash laundry thoroughly, especially anything that has your blood, stool, or body fluids on it. Dry at the warmest recommended temperature.

Cover your face when you cough or sneeze.

Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or with the inside of your elbow and arm when you cough or sneeze. Throw used tissues in a lined trash can. Immediately wash your hands.

Separate yourself from others in your home.

If possible, use a separate bedroom and bathroom. Don't have visitors, unless they need to be there. Also, don't handle pets or other animals. This might transfer the virus to others.

Don't share household items.

Avoid sharing dishes, drinking glasses, silverware, towels, or bedding with others. If you use these items, wash them thoroughly with soap and water.

Wear a facemask when around other people.

If you are not able to wear a facemask, other people should not stay in the same room with you, or they should wear a facemask if they enter your room.

If you need medical help, tell your provider that you have COVID-19 before you go in for help. And put on a facemask before you enter the facility. This will help keep others from being exposed or infected.

If you have a medical emergency, tell the 911 operator that you have COVID-19. If possible, put on a facemask before the emergency team arrives.