

Coronavirus

Symptoms

Common human coronaviruses

Common human coronaviruses, including types 229E, NL63, OC43, and HKU1, usually cause mild to moderate upper-respiratory tract illnesses, like the common cold. Most people get infected with these viruses at some point in their lives. These illnesses usually only last for a short amount of time. Symptoms may include

- runny nose
- headache
- cough
- sore throat
- fever
- a general feeling of being unwell

Coronaviruses can sometimes cause lower-respiratory tract illnesses, such as pneumonia or bronchitis. This is more common in people with cardiopulmonary disease, people with weakened immune systems, infants, and older adults.

Other human coronaviruses

Two other coronaviruses, [MERS-CoV](#) and [SARS-CoV](#) have been known to frequently cause severe symptoms. MERS symptoms usually include fever, cough, and shortness of breath which often progress to pneumonia or kidney failure; many people with MERS have died. SARS symptoms often included fever, chills, and body aches which usually progressed to pneumonia. No human cases of SARS have been reported anywhere in the world since 2004. Sporadic MERS cases continue to occur, primarily in the Arabian Peninsula.

Diagnosis

Your healthcare provider may order laboratory tests on respiratory specimens and serum (part of your blood) to detect human coronavirus. This is especially likely if you have severe disease or are [suspected of having MERS](#).

You should always tell your healthcare provider if you have recently traveled or had contact with animals. Most MERS-CoV infections have been reported from countries in the Arabian Peninsula. Therefore reporting a travel history or contact with camels is very important when trying to diagnose MERS.

[Top of Page](#)

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