Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

REVIEWED
By Chris at 4:16 pm, May 13, 2020

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Situation Summary

Updated April 19, 2020

> This is a rapidly evolving situation and CDC will provide updated information and guida

CDC is responding to a pandemic of respiratory disease spreading from person to person coronavirus. The disease has been named "coronavirus disease 2019" (abbreviated "COVI serious public health risk. The federal government is working closely with state, local, trib well as public health partners, to respond to this situation. COVID-19 can cause mild to se occurs in adults 65 years and older and people of any age with serious underlying medica

Situation in U.S.

Different parts of the country are seeing different levels of COVID-19 activity. The United S acceleration phase of the pandemic. The duration and severity of each pandemic phase c characteristics of the virus and the public health response.

- CDC and state and local public health laboratories are testing for the virus that cause view CDC's Public Health Laboratory Testing map.
- All 50 states have reported cases of COVID-19 to CDC.
- U.S. COVID-19 cases include:
  - People who were infected while travelling, before returning to the United States
  - People who were infected after having close contact with someone known to be
  - People in a community who were infected with the virus but don't know how or
- All U.S. states are reporting community spread of COVID-19.
- View latest case counts, deaths, demographic characteristics, and a map of states wi

For more information about COVID-19, contact a sta department or local health

For more information about COVID-19, contact a state health department or local heal

CDC Recommends

Everyone can do their part to help us respond to this emerging public health threat by fc

- Wear a cloth face covering in public settings to avoid spreading COVID-19 to others i not have symptoms.
- The cloth face cover is meant to protect other people in case you are infected.
- The cloth face coverings recommended are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. T supplies that should be reserved for healthcare workers and other first responders,
- The cloth face covering is not a substitute for social distancing.
- CDC continues to recommend that people try keep about 6 feet between themselves

On April 16, the White House released Guidelines for Opening Up America Again, a ph local officials reopen their economies, get people back to work, and continue to protect A

People who are sick

If you get a **fever or cough**, consider whether you might have COVID-19, depending on wh and other exposures. All of the United States is seeing some level of community spread o tested for COVID-19 by contacting a medical provider or health department, but it's impor treatment for this virus. Most people who get the virus have mild illness and are able to re care.

People at higher risk for severe illness

People **65 years and older** and people with **serious** underlying medical conditions shoul precautions because they are at higher risk of developing severe COVID-19 illness.

Travelers

American citizens, lawful permanent residents, and their families who have been in one o

restrictions for entering the United States in the past 14 days will be allowed to enter the
redirected to one of 13 airports. After you return from one of these countries, you should
health.

All other international travelers, please follow CDC instructions during this time. Your coo
ongoing public health response to try to slow spread of this virus.

Healthcare Providers

If you are a healthcare provider, use your judgment to determine if a patient has signs an
COVID-19 and whether the patient should be tested. CDC's Criteria to Guide Evaluation ar
COVID-19 provides priorities for testing patients with suspected COVID-19 infection.

COVID-19 Background

COVID-19 is caused by a new coronavirus. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that
many different species of animals, including camels, cattle, cats, and bats. Rarely, animal
and then spread between people such as with MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV, and now with this ne

The SARS-CoV-2 virus is a betacoronavirus, like MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV. All three of thes
bats. The sequences from U.S. patients are similar to the one that China initially posted, s
emergence of this virus from an animal reservoir.

Early on, many of the patients at the epicenter of the outbreak in Wuhan, Hubei Province,
seafood and live animal market, suggesting animal-to-person spread. Later, a growing nu
not have exposure to animal markets, indicating person-to-person spread. Person-to-pers
reported outside Hubei and in countries outside China, including in the United States. Mo
now have ongoing community spread with the virus that causes COVID-19, as does the Ur
means some people have been infected and it is not known how or where they became e
spread of this coronavirus that is causing COVID-19.

Severity

The complete clinical picture of COVID-19 is not fully known. Reported illnesses have rang
some people with no reported symptoms) to severe, including illness resulting in death. W
suggests that the majority of COVID-19 illnesses are mild, an early report out of China

people who were infected. A CDC Morbidity & Mortality Weekly Report that looked at sev COVID-19 patients in the United States by age group found that 80% of deaths were amor with the highest percentage of severe outcomes occurring in people 85 years and older. F medical conditions — like serious heart conditions, chronic lung disease, and diabetes, fo higher risk of developing severe COVID-19 illness.

> **Related:** Symptoms Associated with COVID-19

Risk Assessment

The risk posed by COVID-19 depends on characteristics of the virus, including how easily i severity of resulting illness; and the medical or other measures available to control the im vaccines or medications that can treat the illness) and the relative success of these. Becau treatments for COVID-19, nonpharmaceutical interventions become the most important r community interventions that can help reduce the impact of disease, like social distancing

When considering the risk that COVID-19 poses to Americans, it's helpful to break down th **exposure** and **risk of serious illness and death**.

Risk of exposure

- Cases of COVID-19 and instances of community spread are being reported in all stat
- People in places where ongoing community spread of the virus that causes COVID-1 elevated risk of exposure, with the level of their risk depending on their location.
- Healthcare workers caring for patients with COVID-19 are at elevated risk of exposur
- Close contacts of persons with COVID-19 also are at elevated risk of exposure.
- Travelers returning from affected international locations where community spread is risk of exposure, with their level of risk depending on where they traveled.

Risk of severe illness

Based on what we know now, persons at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 are:

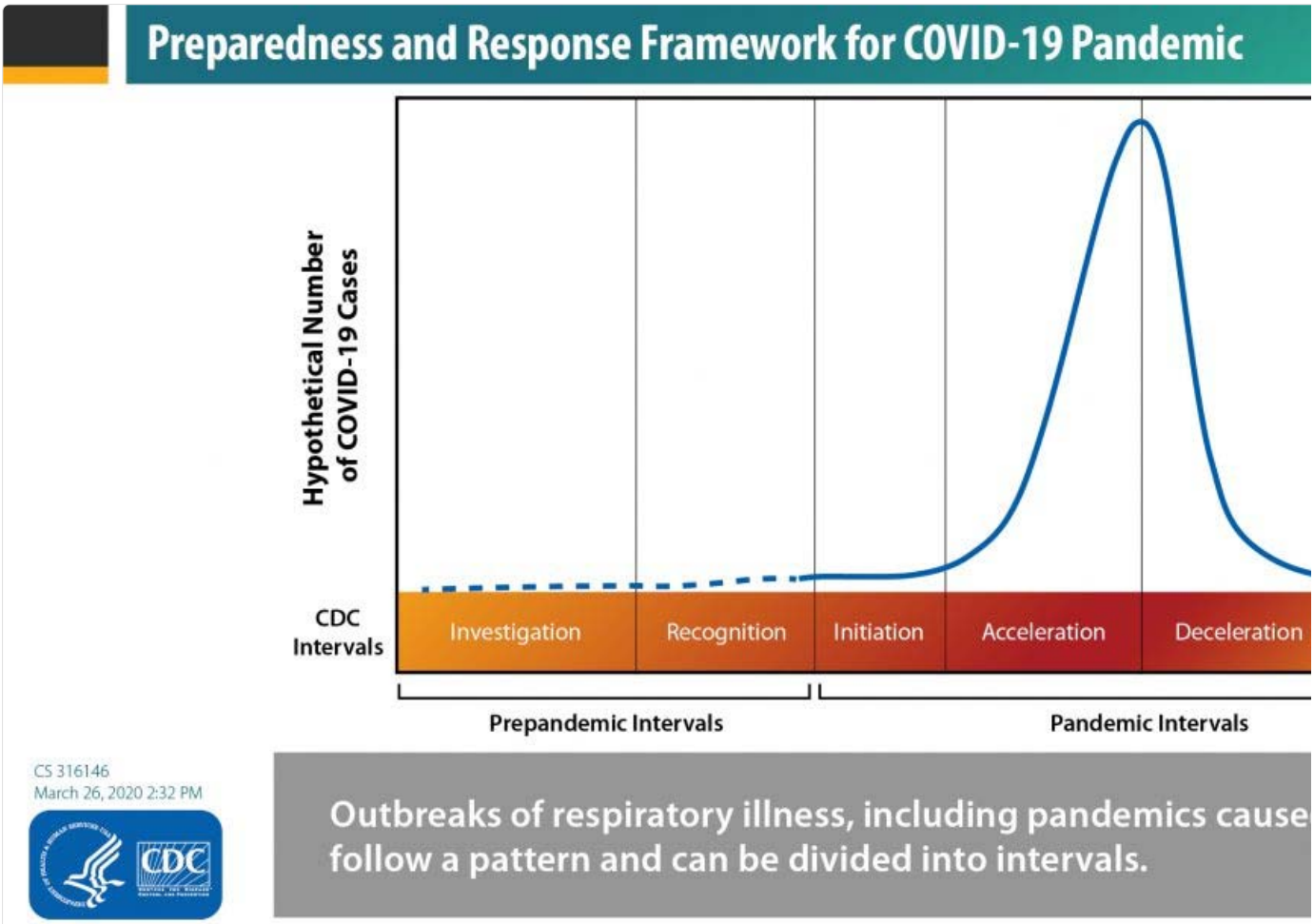
- People 65 years and older

- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- People of all ages with serious underlying medical conditions

CDC has developed guidance to help individuals and healthcare providers assess the risk people with potential community-related exposures to COVID-19.

COVID-19 Pandemic

A pandemic is a global outbreak of disease. Pandemics happen when a new virus emerge spread between people sustainably. Because there is little to no pre-existing immunity ag worldwide.



Source: CDC's "Updated Preparedness and Response Framework for Influenza Pande

View Larger

The virus that causes COVID-19 is infecting people and spreading easily from person-to-p COVID-19 outbreak was characterized as a pandemic by the WHO .

This is the first pandemic known to be caused by a new coronavirus. In the past century, t caused by the emergence of new influenza viruses. As a result, most research and guidan to influenza, but the same premises can be applied to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Pa follow a certain progression outlined in a "Pandemic Intervals Framework." Pandemics be followed by recognition, initiation, and acceleration phases. The peak of illnesses occurs a phase, which is followed by a deceleration phase, during which there is a decrease in illne in different phases of the pandemic at any point in time and different parts of the same c phases of a pandemic.

Related: Confirmed COVID-19 Cases Global Map

CDC Response

Global efforts at this time are focused concurrently on lessening the spread and impact o government is working closely with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners, as well as p respond to this public health threat.

View highlights of CDC's response.

More Information

World Health Organization, Coronavirus