

What you need to know about:

COVID-19

(CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019)

Q: What is COVID-19?

A: COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. Since COVID-19 first appeared in late 2019, there have been changes and mutations to the virus that causes the infection. Variants such as the Delta variant are much more contagious and spread easier than the original virus.

Q: How does COVID-19 spread?

A: COVID-19 spreads the same way the flu and other respiratory diseases spread, through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes.

Q: What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

A: People with COVID-19 have had symptoms ranging from mild to severe illness. Symptoms typically appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. COVID-19 symptoms include:

- Fever / chills • Cough • Shortness of breath / difficulty breathing • Fatigue
- Muscle / body aches • Headaches
- Sore Throat • New loss of taste / smell
- Congestion / runny nose • Diarrhea
- Nausea or vomiting

For updated CDC information about symptoms go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

Q: How can I protect myself from COVID-19?

A: The best protection against COVID-19 is to get vaccinated. There are three vaccines currently available in the U.S. that are safe and effective in protecting against COVID-19 and preventing serious illness or death if you do get sick.

Q: Where can I get a COVID vaccine?

A: COVID vaccines are widely available at doctors' offices, retail pharmacies, hospitals, federally qualified health centers, and county health departments throughout Georgia. To find a COVID vaccine provider near you visit:

dph.ga.gov/covid-vaccine
or vaccinefinder.org

Q: Who should be vaccinated for COVID-19?

A: Vaccines are currently available for all Georgians 12 years of age and older. *Vaccines are free & do not require insurance or ID.*

Q: What are the side effects of the COVID vaccine?

A: Commonly known side effects of the COVID vaccine are short-term injection site pain, fever, chills, headaches and joint pain. These symptoms usually last only a day or two.

Q: Are there other things I should do to protect myself from COVID-19?

A: The best protection against COVID-19 is vaccination. In addition, the same measures that prevent the spread of any respiratory virus are very important for all Georgians:

- Wash your hands often with soap + water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Put 6 feet (about two arm lengths) between yourself + others in public settings.
- Wear a face covering that covers your nose + mouth when you're in public settings.

For more information: dph.georgia.gov/novelcoronavirus
cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html

