

# Coronavirus (COVID-19)

September 22, 2020

## Public Health Recommendations Instructions for **People with COVID-19 Symptoms**

If you have symptoms like fever, onset or worsening of a cough, difficulty breathing or sudden loss of smell without nasal congestion with or without loss of taste, you may have COVID-19 even if you did not take the screening test. You may also have other symptoms, such as sore throat, headache, muscle pain, intense fatigue, loss of appetite and vomiting and diarrhea. Please comply with the following recommendations to avoid transmitting COVID-19 to others.

Other information sheets are available. Be sure to read the sheet that is appropriate to your situation:

- [Instructions for People with COVID-19 in Home Isolation](#)
- [Instructions for People Who Have Been in Contact with a Case of COVID-19](#)
- [Instructions for People With COVID-19 Symptoms Who Are Waiting to Either Be Tested or for a Screening Test Result](#)
- [Instructions on Return Home from Abroad - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

### Stay Home

- Do not go to school or work or to an early childhood or daycare centre or any other public place, such as a store.
- Do not go out for a walk.
- Do not take public transportation.
- If you have no one that can help you by picking up your groceries and medications, have your supermarket and pharmacy orders delivered and stay at least two metres away from the delivery person.
- Allow no visitors in your home.
- If you live with others who have no symptoms and were never sick with COVID-19:
  - If possible, remain alone in one room of the house, always the same one.
  - Avoid contact with others in the home. Keep a distance of at least 2 metres between yourself and others. Cover your nose and mouth if you need to be closer than 2 metres from someone (see box text below).



- If possible, eat and sleep alone in a single room of the home.
- If possible, use a bathroom reserved for you alone. Otherwise, disinfect after each use.
- Recommend to the people that live with you to watch for the onset of symptoms over the next two weeks. If they develop symptoms, they will need to follow the instructions listed in this fact sheet.
- Air out the house and your room often by opening a window, weather permitting.

You may go out on your balcony or in your private yard, always staying 2 metres away from anyone else.

## Cover Your Nose and Mouth

If possible, wear a mask or [face covering](#) over your nose and mouth:

- Whenever another person is in the same room as you and less than two metres away.
- Whenever you go out for medical reasons.

Learn how to make and use a face covering at [Wearing a mask or a face covering in public settings in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

## Cover Your Nose and Mouth When Coughing or Sneezing



- Use a paper facial tissue when you cough, sneeze or blow your nose.
- Throw the tissue away in the trash as soon as possible then wash your hands thoroughly.
- If no paper tissues are available, cough or sneeze into the crook of your elbow.

## Wash Your Hands Often



- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap is not available and rub your hands together until they are dry.
- Also wash your hands when they are visibly dirty, before eating and after using the toilet.
- Close the toilet bowl lid before flushing and be sure to wash your hands.

## Do Not Share Personal Items

- Do not share dishes, utensils, glasses, towels, sheets and/or clothes with anyone else.

## Avoid all contact with pets

There is nothing to suggest that pets play a significant role in spreading COVID-19. However, several cases of transmission between animals and humans have been seen. It is also true that pets exposed to the virus are comparable to potentially contaminated surfaces.

- Abide by public health recommendations for humans with respect to pets.
- If possible, ask another person in the home to care for your pets. If this is not possible, carefully wash your hands before and after you touch your pets and cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
- If possible, keep your pets indoors. If you let them out, use a leash or keep them in a private fenced-in yard.
- Tell people that care for your pets to limit physical contact, wash their hands before and after touching them and implement the usual preventive measure for animal diseases that can be transmitted to humans (see [www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/zoonoses](http://www.mapaq.gouv.qc.ca/zoonoses)).
- More information is available at the [Quebec.ca Q&A for pet owners and custodians](#)

## Watch for Symptoms and Take Your Temperature Every Day

- Take your temperature every day at the same time of day, and note it down.
- If you are taking fever medicine, wait at least 4 hours before taking your temperature.

These steps will prove useful if you need to see a health professional.

## Home Care

Note the start date of the first symptom, this will be helpful if you are calling 1 877 644-4545 or seeing a healthcare professional. This information will help determine when preventive home self-isolation will end.

In the great majority of cases, you can be treated at home. See the [Self-Care Guide](#). As a rule, testing is recommended if you have symptoms of COVID-19. As a first step, call the 1-877-644-4545 hotline to be directed to the appropriate resource.

- If you need to go to a medical clinic or a hospital, wear a mask or face covering and tell staff that you have COVID-19 symptoms as soon as you arrive.
- If you have severe symptoms such as difficulty breathing, major shortness of breath or chest pain, call 911 before going to the emergency room and tell the agent that you have COVID-19 symptoms.

## If You Need Help With Your Daily Tasks Like Eating, Going to the Toilet and Getting Around the House

Ideally, the same person should always help you. That person should be less than 70 years of age, in good health and have no chronic heart or lung or kidney disease, diabetes, major obesity (BMI > 40), weakened immune system or be in treatment for cancer.

You should always wear a mask or face covering over your nose and mouth whenever someone else is in the same room and less than 2 metres away.

**Before any person helps you, they must:**

1. Wash their hands.
2. Wear a mask or face covering over the nose and mouth.
3. Wear disposable gloves.

**After helping you, they must:**

4. Remove their gloves and dispose of them in a closed container out of reach of children.
5. Wash their hands.
6. Remove the mask or the face covering;
  - Place the face covering in a closed bag and keep it out of the reach of children until it can be washed normally.
  - Disposable masks should always be placed in a closed garbage bag or can.
7. Wash their hands again.

## Laundry and Housecleaning

The sick person's sheets, towels, clothing and face coverings and cloths used to cover the nose and mouth can usually be washed with other household laundry. However, they should be washed separately if soiled with vomit, etc.

- Wash with hot water.
- Wear disposable gloves to avoid direct contact between your skin and clothes and the sick person's clothing, sheets and towels.
- Do not shake out dirty laundry before washing.

The sick person's utensils and dishes can be washed with your usual liquid detergent or in the dishwasher.

The sick person's trash can be bagged and thrown out with the other household trash. Firmly close the lid of the garbage pail or close the bag tightly.

Wash your hands frequently with soap and water:

- After contact with the sick person or objects and surfaces touched by them like a bedside table, dishes, etc.
- Before and after preparing food, before eating, after using the toilet and whenever your hands are visibly dirty.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based sanitizer.

Clean and disinfect the following at least once a day:

- Objects and surfaces frequently touched by the sick person, such as door handles, a bedside table, other furniture in the room and the bed frame.
- The bathroom and toilet.

If a surface is clean, apply the disinfectant.

If not, first wash with soap and water to remove all dirt and grime, rinse with clean water and dry with a clean cloth before applying the disinfectant.

Leave the disinfectant to act for a few minutes (follow the instructions on the label) then wipe off completely with a clean cloth.

Special cleaning instructions:

- Wear impermeable gloves at all times.
- Wash your hands and forearms for 20 seconds before putting on the gloves and after removing them.
- Wash the gloves with detergent and water then let them dry before re-use, or replace them with a new pair as you see fit.
- Wash your hands with soap and water again for 20 seconds.

### **Cleaning and disinfecting products**

Use soap and water or household cleaners. Use your regular disinfectant or a mix of 1 part domestic bleach to 9 parts cold water (e.g., 1 cup bleach mixed with 9 cups water).

If possible, have the sick clean and disinfect their own rooms and surfaces themselves.

### **Call Info-Social 811 (24/7 Psychosocial Hotline) if you are Experiencing Any of the Following:**

- Stress or anxiety
- Lasting emotional reactions (frequent crying, irritability, etc.)
- Feelings of panic
- Ideas that never leave you alone, never cease and frighten you
- Social repercussions of COVID-19

Psychosocial health professionals will provide support and share information and advice as needed.

## **COVID-19 and Home Self-Isolation**

### **What is COVID-19?**

COVID-19 is a disease caused by the novel coronavirus.

### **What are its symptoms?**

The principal symptoms are fever, the onset or worsening of cough, difficulty breathing and/or sudden loss of smell without nasal congestion. Other symptoms may also appear, such as a sore throat, headache, sore muscles, intense fatigue, major loss of appetite, vomiting and diarrhea.

## How does COVID-19 spread?

The disease is transmitted from one person to another by contact with droplets sprayed in the air when a sick person talks, coughs or sneezes. People who are symptom-free may unknowingly transmit COVID-19. Transmission from touching contaminated surfaces or objects, while possible, is not the main transmission mode.

## Why is it so important to obey home isolation recommendations?

To avoid infecting others.

## When is it OK to stop self-isolating at home?

If you have been flagged as having had contact with a case of COVID-19 or have returned from a trip abroad, view the instructions that are appropriate to your case (see the links at the beginning of this information sheet).

### Important:

The following recommendations must be complied with unless otherwise advised by public health authorities.

If you are a health worker, you should contact your place of work for instructions on when and how to end your quarantine and return to work.

Situations		When self-isolation can end
You have been tested for COVID-19.	You tested positive.	You can end your period of isolation 10 days after the onset of your symptoms and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– You have had no fever for at least 48 hours without using fever medicine.</li><li>– You have had no acute symptoms for at least 24 hours except for cough and loss of smell, which can last longer.</li></ul> Consult the document <a href="#">Instructions for People with COVID-19 in Home Isolation</a> .
	You tested negative.	If you are not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– A contact of a confirmed case of COVID19,</li><li>– Waiting for a 2nd COVID-19 test,</li><li>– A traveler returning to Canada for less than 14 days,</li></ul> you can resume your usual activities if your state of health allows it.
You have not been tested for COVID-19.	You have one of the following symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Fever &gt; 38°</li><li>– Onset or worsening of cough</li><li>– Difficulty breathing</li><li>– Sudden loss of smell.</li></ul>	You can end your period of isolation 10 days after the onset of your symptoms and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– You have had no fever for at least 48 hours without using fever medicine and;</li></ul>

		– Your symptoms improved for at least 24 hours (except for cough and loss of smell, which can last longer).
	You have only one symptom other than those named above (e.g. headache, sore throat, diarrhea).	You can end your isolation.
	You have two or more symptoms other than those named above (eg headache, sore throat, diarrhea).	Consult the <a href="#">COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool</a> or contact 1 877 644-4545.

If in doubt, call the 1-877-644-4545 hotline or read the [COVID-19 Self-Care Guide](#) at [Quebec.ca/coronavirus](http://Quebec.ca/coronavirus).