

COVID-19 USSD FAQ's

Hello Doctor Hotline

March 24, 2020

What is a Coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are part of a family of viruses that cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)

What is COVID-19

COVID-19 is the infectious disease caused by the most recently discovered coronavirus in Wuhan, China in December 2019

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, dry cough, shortness of breath and a sore throat.

How does COVID-19 spread?

Coronavirus is spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth when a person with COVID-19 coughs, sneezes or breathes.

What can I do to protect myself?

Wash your hands regularly with soap and water. Don't touch your face or public surfaces. Don't shake hands. Avoid anyone who is coughing or sneezing.

Should I be worried?

Illness due to COVID-19 is usually mild, especially for children and young adults. Only about 1 in every 5 people who catch it need hospital care.

Who is most at risk?

Older people, and those with medical conditions like high blood pressure, heart disease, lung disease, cancer, diabetes, TB and HIV are most at risk.

How is COVID-19 diagnosed?

COVID-19 is diagnosed by a laboratory test, using a sample from your nose and throat. Only a doctor can refer you for a test.

How is COVID-19 infection treated?

So far there is no vaccine or medicine to treat COVID-2019. People with serious illness should be hospitalized. Most patients recover with supportive care.

Can antibiotics treat COVID-19?

No. Antibiotics do not work against viruses, they only work on bacterial infections. COVID-19 is caused by a virus, so antibiotics do not work.

Should I wear a mask to protect myself?

Only wear a mask if you're ill with COVID-19 symptoms (coughing), or looking after someone who has COVID-19. If you are not ill then you're wasting a mask