



COVID-19 Basics

Coronavirus signs and symptoms




what is COVID 19?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is caused by a coronavirus that has not been previously identified. There are many types of human coronaviruses including some that commonly cause mild upper-respiratory tract illnesses. This strain of coronavirus comes from bats and has not been known to cause infections in humans previously.



how does it spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 is believed to spread from person to person through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. These droplets can infect others by entering the nose, mouth, or eyes of people who are nearby. Spread is more likely when people are in close contact (less than 6 feet) with one another. It can also be spread from contaminated surfaces when a person touches the surface and then touches their eyes, nose or mouth.



what to look for


Although every individual presents differently, the most common signs and symptoms to look for are: **fever, cough, and shortness of breath.**

(Other less common signs and symptoms are tiredness, muscle aches, loss of sense of taste or smell, loss of appetite, headaches, nausea or diarrhea.)

A photograph of infection control supplies. In the background, a white bottle of disinfectant with a blue label is visible. In the foreground, a light blue surgical mask and a white tissue are prominently displayed. The items are arranged on a light-colored surface.

infection control practices

The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 is to follow all FMOLHS, St. Dominic's Hospital and Center for Disease Control guidelines.

A photograph of hand hygiene supplies on a grey surface. In the background is a white bottle of hand sanitizer with a blue label. In the foreground, a light blue surgical mask and a pair of white nitrile gloves are visible. The text 'wash your hands' is overlaid in green, underlined.

wash your hands

Handwashing is one of the easiest ways to combat infections. Wash hands for at least 20 seconds.

St. Dominic's will continue to perform regular hand hygiene audits.



practice social distancing

Spacing a minimum of six feet from others keeps you and those around you safer from the likelihood of infection.



personal protective equipment

St. Dominic's has PPE guidelines developed specifically for COVID-19. **Everyone** who enters our facilities is required to be screened, wear a face mask and encouraged to use hand sanitizer.



PPE vigilance

It is the responsibility of **ALL** staff to protect our patients, families, and each other. This includes following St. Dominic's guidelines and immediately reporting any suspected violations or breaches in PPE integrity to your manager.



cleaning and disinfecting

Now more than ever, it is imperative to ensure that environmental cleaning and disinfection procedures are followed consistently and correctly.

Routine cleaning and disinfection procedures should still include using cleaners and water to pre-clean surfaces prior to applying an EPA-registered, hospital-grade disinfectant to frequently touched surfaces and objects for appropriate contact times as indicated on the product's label. This includes patient-care areas in which aerosol-generating procedures are performed.

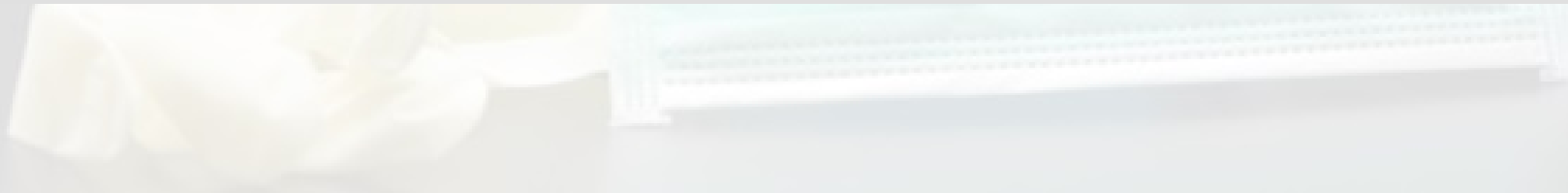
Management of laundry, food service utensils, and medical waste should also be performed in accordance with routine procedures.

cleaning and disinfecting surfaces



Germicidal disposable wipes (purple top) is the preferred cleaning agent. When cleaning with wipes, it is necessary to wear clean gloves. Additionally, for germicidal wipes to be effective, the item or surface must remain wet for two minutes. After two minutes, the item may be wiped dry if needed.

*(Blue top wipes may be used to clean hands when washing isn't available.)





want more information?

St. Dominic Hospital is continually updating information on our intranet site (focus) for employees, as well as on our public internet website. The COVID-19 steering committee is reviewing all information and our hospital senior leadership team provides scheduled updates on a routine basis.



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Coronavirus Disease 2019

CDC is responding to the novel coronavirus outbreak.

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Click here for information and preparedness protocols on COVID-19 (Coronavirus).

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COVID-19 Updates

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resources

External References:

Center for Disease Control
Mississippi Department of Health

Internal References:

St. Dominic's Dominet intranet
FMOLHS website

Questions?

Contact Aimee or Tanya of Volunteer Services at (601)200-6739.