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← Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) (/en/tag/coronavirus-disease-covid-19)

Share these postcards on your social media accounts to help disseminate this important information. These series of social media cards debunk many myths about COVID-19.

To date, there is no specific medicine recommended to prevent or treat COVID-19.
However, those infected with the virus should receive appropriate care to relieve and treat symptoms, and those with severe illness should receive optimized supportive care.
Some specific treatments are under investigation, and will be tested through clinical trials
WHO is helping to accelerate research and development efforts with a range of partners.

Are there any specific medicines to prevent or treat COVID-19?



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There is no evidence yet to say oseltamivir can cure COVID-19 .
WHO is working urgently with researchers and doctors around the world to investigate possible treatments for the virus. This includes looking at whether existing antiviral drugs have an impact on the virus. However, this work is still at an early stage and has not produced any recommendations.

Does taking oseltamivir cure COVID-19?



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No. Existing vaccines against pneumonia, such as pneumococcal vaccine and *Haemophilus influenzae* type B (Hib) do not provide protection against COVID-19.

The virus is so new and different that it needs its own vaccine. Researchers are trying to develop a vaccine against COVID-19, and WHO is supporting their efforts.

Although these vaccines are not effective against COVID-19, vaccination against respiratory illnesses is highly recommended to protect your health.

Do existing vaccines against pneumonia protect you against COVID-19?

An illustration showing two pink human lungs with smiling faces and a white syringe with a brown vial next to it, set against a blue background.

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The logos for the Pan American Health Organization and the World Health Organization are positioned to the left of the PAHO #COVID19 text.

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People receiving packages from China are not at risk of contracting the COVID-19.

From previous analysis, we know coronaviruses do not survive long on objects, such as letters or packages.

Is it safe to receive a letter or a package from China?

An illustration showing two brown cardboard boxes and a white envelope with a red stamp, set against a blue background.

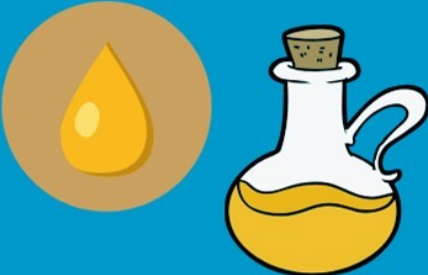
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Sesame oil does not kill the virus.
There are some chemical disinfectants that can kill COVID-19 on surfaces. These include bleach/chlorine-based disinfectants, ether solvents, 75% ethanol, peracetic acid and chloroform. However, they have little or no impact on the virus if you put them on the skin or under your nose. It can even be dangerous to put these chemicals on your skin.

Does putting on sesame oil block COVID-19 from entering the body?





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Breathing in the smoke and gas from a firework or firecracker is dangerous and does not kill the virus.
The smoke from fireworks and firecrackers contains sulphur dioxide, a mildly toxic gas that some people are allergic to. It can irritate your eyes, nose, throat and lungs and could even cause an asthma attack. Also, you risk getting burned if you are near enough to a firework to breathe in its smoke.

Can the smoke and gas from fireworks and firecrackers prevent COVID-19?

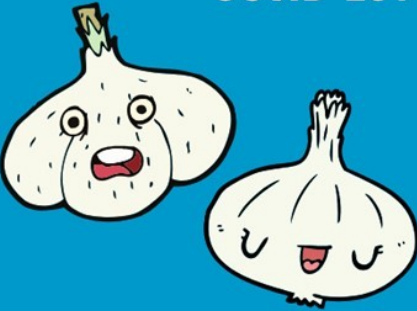



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Garlic is a healthy food that may have some antimicrobial properties.
However, there is no evidence from the current outbreak that eating garlic has protected people from COVID-19.

Can eating garlic help prevent infection with COVID-19?




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There is no evidence that using mouthwash will protect you from infection with COVID-19.
Some brands of mouthwash can eliminate certain microbes for a few minutes in the saliva in your mouth. However, this does not mean they protect you from COVID-19 infection.

Can gargling mouthwash protect you from infection with COVID-19?



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There is no evidence that regularly rinsing the nose with saline has protected people from infection with COVID-19.

There is some limited evidence that regularly rinsing the nose with saline can help people recover more quickly from the common cold. However, regularly rinsing the nose has not been shown to prevent respiratory infections.

Can regularly rinsing your nose with saline help prevent infection with COVID-19?



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Can the new coronavirus (COVID-19) survive in hot and humid climates?

Yes, 2019-nCoV has spread to countries with both hot and humid climates, as well as cold and dry.

Wherever you live, whatever the climate, it is important to follow precautions. Wash your hands frequently and cover coughs and



precautions. Wash your hands frequently and cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or a bent elbow. Throw the tissue in the bin and wash your hands immediately afterwards.



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Thermal scanners are effective in detecting people who have developed a fever (i.e. have a higher than normal body temperature) because of infection with the COVID-19.

However, they cannot detect people who are infected but are not yet sick with fever. This is because it takes between 2 and 10 days before people who are infected become sick and develop a fever.

How effective are thermal scanners in detecting people infected with COVID-19?



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Drinking water alleviates a sore throat. Does this also protect

i + COVID-19?

throat. Does this also protect against COVID-19?

While staying hydrated by drinking water is important for overall health, it does not prevent coronavirus infection. If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early and share previous travel history with your health care provider. If possible, call ahead so your health care provider can prepare for your visit.



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Does drinking alcohol prevent the new coronavirus (COVID-19)?

No, drinking alcohol does not protect you from 2019-nCoV infection. Reduce your risk of



you from 2019-nCoV infection. Reduce your risk of coronavirus infection by frequently cleaning hands using alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water; when coughing and sneezing cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue – throw away immediately and wash hands; and avoid close contact with anyone who has fever and cough.



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What type of disinfectant can I use to wipe down surfaces to protect against COVID-19?

If a surface is dirty, first wipe it down with regular household soap or detergent and rinse with water. Then use a regular household disinfectant like bleach – its active ingredient (sodium hypochlorite) kills bacteria, fungi and viruses. Always protect your hands when using bleach (e.g. wear rubber gloves). Dilute



hands when using bleach (e.g. wear rubber gloves). Dilute bleach with water according to directions on the package.




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Does smoking have an effect on the new coronavirus, COVID-19?



Smoking does not protect against COVID-19. In fact, smoking is deadly. More than 8 million people die each year as a result of tobacco use. People with underlying health conditions such as heart disease, which can be exacerbated by smoking, are at higher risk of severe COVID-19.



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A large blue rectangular area containing text and an illustration. The text is in white and yellow. The illustration shows two hands being washed with white soap suds.



What should I do if shops are sold out of hand sanitizer?

That's okay. **Washing your hands using regular soap and water is also effective against COVID-19.** Remember to wash between your fingers, the backs of your hands and around your nails.

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[DOWNLOAD?TOKEN=4XORE_ZW](https://www.paho.org/en/file/60764/download?token=4xore_zw))

Can COVID-19 spread through faeces 🦌 ?

Like other coronaviruses, this virus can be found in faeces. But COVID-19 spreads primarily through close contact with an infected person or the droplets released when they sneeze or cough. To protect yourself wash your hands regularly – especially before preparing food or eating, after coughing or sneezing, before and after using the toilet and after changing a child's diaper.

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How do I ensure clothes and bedlinen

How do I ensure clothes and bedlinen don't spread novel coronavirus?

Don't carry dirty linen or clothes against your body. Wash them in hot water (between 60-90°C) with laundry detergent or soap.

If available, add bleach. Follow the directions on the package. Machine dry on a high temperature or dry in direct sunlight.



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postcards-myth-busters-covid-19&title=Social media postcards:
Myth-Busters (COVID-19)
source=http://www.paho.org/covid-19)

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Resources

[Collaborating Centers \(/en/pahowho-collaborating-centres\)](#)

[Virtual Health Library \(http://bvsalud.org\)](http://bvsalud.org)

[Virtual Campus for Public Health \(https://www.campusvirtualsp.org\)](https://www.campusvirtualsp.org)

[PAHO Digital Library \(IRIS\) \(http://iris.paho.org/xmlui\)](http://iris.paho.org/xmlui)

[Data \(http://www.paho.org/data/\)](http://www.paho.org/data/)

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