What you need to know about:

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

Q: What is COVID-19?

A: Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China.

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 or sneezes.

Q: What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

A: Patients with COVID-19 have mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough and shortness of breath. In severe cases, patients with COVID-19 have developed pneumonia in both lungs.

Q: Is there a vaccine for COVID-19?

A: There is currently no vaccine to protect against COVID-19. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19.

Q: Who can be infected with COVID-19?

A: Diseases can make anyone sick regardless of their race or ethnicity. People of Asian descent, including Chinese Americans, are not more likely to get COVID-19 than any other American. Help stop fear by letting people know that being of Asian descent does not increase the chance of getting or spreading COVID-19.

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

A: The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19. The same measures that are urged to prevent the spread of any respiratory virus are increasingly important for all Georgians:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Stay home if you're sick.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Get a flu shot!
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Q: How is COVID-19 treated?

A: There is no specific antiviral treatment recommended for COVID-19. People with COVID-19 should receive supportive care to help relieve symptoms.

People who think they may have been exposed to COVID-19 should call their healthcare provider ***before*** going to any provider's office, emergency department or urgent care.

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

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