

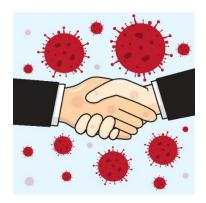
COVID-19 Information By and For People with Disabilities

6 Jan 2022



What is COVID-19?

- It is an illness spreading around the world.
- Its nickname is coronavirus.



How do you get it?

- Someone with COVID-19 gives you their germs.
- When they cough or sneeze, their germs get in the air, on you, and on things.
- Germs get into your body through your mouth, nose, and eyes.



Is there a shot to get so I do not get sick?

- There is a shot that can help you avoid getting very ill from COVID-19.
- Visit hpePublicHealth.ca to learn how to get your shot.

What can happen if you have it?



A fever of 38° or higher



Coughing



Hard time breathing



No taste or smell

Other feelings might include:

- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Stuffy nose
- Hoarse voice
- Hard to swallow
- Chest pain
- Tired for no reason

- Falling often
- Chronic conditions getting worse
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- Stomach pain
- Chills
- Headaches
- Fast heart beat
- Drop in blood pressure (you might feel lightheaded)



If these things happen to you, it does not mean you have COVID-19.

Lots of people get sick.

You could have a cold or the flu.

If I am sick what should I do?



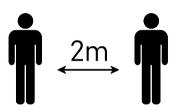
- If it is an emergency, call 911.
- Call your doctor and follow their instructions. Do not visit their office unless they ask you to.
- Stay home for at least 5 days.



Stay Home



Use tissues, then throw them away



Avoid contact with others



Keep objects and surfaces clean

How sick do you get?



- Most people do not get very sick.
 It is like having a cold or the flu.
- Some people have more trouble getting better than others.
 This is more common in older people and those who have chronic diseases like diabetes or cancer.
- Some people who need extra help to get better may end up in the hospital.

How can I stay healthy, or not get it?

Wash your hands.



- Use soap and warm water.
 Wash for at least 20 seconds (sing Happy Birthday).
- Wash after using the bathroom or being in public (like going to a store).
- If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer. Washing well with soap and water is better than hand sanitizer.
- Make sure that anyone helping you has washed their hands. If you are not sure they have, it is okay to ask them to do it again.

Do not to touch your face.

Do not touch your eyes, mouth or nose.
 This is how germs get in your body.



Cough or sneeze into your elbow.

 Coughing and sneezing into your elbow stops germs from going into the air and onto your hands.

Stay 2 metres away from others.

This distance will protect you from germs.

If my staff person is sick, what should I do?



- A sick staff person should stay home until they are well.
- Tell your team. Tell your case manager.

What do I do if someone I live with gets sick?



Someone else living in your home could get COVID-19 or think they have these germs in their body.

- Everyone who lives with you should stay home.
- Stay at least 2 metres away from the sick person.
- Do not touch surfaces or food that the sick person has touched.
- Keep washing your hands well.
- Call your case manager.

How do I say hello to my friends?



- No handshaking. No hugging.
 No fist bumps.
- Smile, wave, bump elbows, text, call, message.

Where can I go these days?



- A lot of places are closed right now.
- Staying home protects yourself and others.
- Stay away from groups of 5 or more people.
- Only go out for groceries or medications when you need to.

I have a job. I am worried about missing work.

- If you are sick, you need to stay home.
- Health comes before money.
- Tell your boss if you do not feel well.
- If you are worried about money, talk to your family, friends or team.

Why is it important to do all of this?



- To keep you and the people you care about healthy.
- Some people with disabilities get sick really easily.

What do I say to my friends if they get nervous?



- Talk to someone you trust.
- Call the <u>Addictions and Mental Health</u> <u>Services Pandemic Helpline</u>: 613-967-4737

Make a plan in case you have to stay at home.



- ☐ Who can go food shopping for you?
- Who will call to check in on you?
- ☐ What will you do if your staff calls in sick?
- ☐ Make sure you know your doctor's phone number.

Talk to your self-advocacy group, friends, family, or support staff about your worries and concerns.

Visit the Community Living Ontario hub for more resources.



If you have been near a person with coronavirus, you will be asked to stay home. A person can have COVID-19 in their body and not feel sick. It takes a few days to get sick. This virus spreads very easily. You don't want to give it to others.

Adapted with permission from Green Mountain Self-Advocates.

