

Coronavirus Disease 2019 and Influenza

Worldwide there is great concern about the emerging epidemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). However, most of the infections are in one part of China, and thus far the virus appears to pose limited threat outside of China.



COVID-19 in China

As of February 21, 2020

75 569 reported cases

75 467 (99%) of cases are in Chinese mainland

2239 deaths



COVID-19 in the US

As of February 24, 2020

14 cases diagnosed through US health care system

39 cases among repatriated US citizens

0 deaths

0 critically ill case-patients

No evidence of community-wide COVID-19 transmission in the US

Influenza in the US

As of February 15, 2020, CDC estimates

At least **29 million** ill patients

At least **13 million** physician visits

At least **280 000** hospitalizations

At least **16 000** deaths

105 pediatric influenza-associated deaths reported to the CDC by state health departments

In contrast, the 2019-2020 influenza season in the US has been moderately severe to date, with large numbers of ill persons, and substantial numbers of hospitalizations and deaths attributable to influenza.

This season has been especially severe for children with very high pediatric hospitalization rates. From a public health perspective, people should focus their attention on influenza and take preventive measures.



Get the flu vaccine



Avoid sick persons, especially those who are coughing



Wash hands frequently



In general, wearing masks in public does not prevent people from getting the disease. They may only be useful if you live with someone who is infected and the mask use is started immediately after the person has become infected.

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Sources: 2019-2020 U.S. Flu Season: Preliminary Burden Estimates <https://bit.ly/38YYd6O>
CDC weekly US influenza surveillance report. <https://bit.ly/2w1fqON>
Coronavirus COVID-19 global cases by Johns Hopkins CSSE. <https://bit.ly/390iVpS>
Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the U.S. <https://bit.ly/38XXBhz>
JAMA Network coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) resource center.
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/pages/coronavirus-alert>
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