

# COVID-19 Fact Sheet



The expectation is that many people will be exposed to the novel coronavirus and most people will have mild to moderate symptoms of COVID-19. The goal of the current precautions is to spread out the exposure timeline so that the entire community does not get exposed at the same time. **This will prevent an overload on Police, Fire and the healthcare system.**

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*Please continue to follow the latest CDC guidelines on exposure prevention and encourage your family, friends, and co-workers to do the same.*

- The virus is now known as the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The disease it causes is called coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).
- The current situation is expected to change and the City of Edina's emergency services are prepared to adjust its responses. The City will modify its 911 communications center dispatching, and the Police, Fire and EMS responses.
- First Responders will be dispatched to emergency calls, but in fewer numbers to limit exposure to the patients, their families and our staff.
- Paramedic/Firefighters and Police Officers are all available to respond. They will divide the emergencies between them. Therefore, you may only see a Police Officer, an ambulance, or a jump car with a Paramedic/Firefighter.
- Dispatchers will send the most appropriate resources available to the emergency. The response levels will change based on call volume, staffing and the type of emergencies under way.
- Emergency responders may not appear as you expect. Normally, Paramedic/Firefighters wear uniforms, but now are also wearing masks, goggles, gowns and sometimes scrubs, and may keep their distance from you when possible. This is all to protect you and our first responders from exposing each other to the virus.
- The First Responders will take care of you, but they have to perform their jobs quickly and prepare to respond to the next call for help.
- You do not need to call 911 if you are normally healthy and suspect you have COVID-19. Contact your health practitioner instead.

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- The goal is to reserve 911 for true emergencies. This will conserve valuable 911 resources for you and the community for when they are truly needed.
- When Paramedic/Firefighters evaluate you, they may leave you at home if you do not need to go to the hospital.
- If you are going to be transported to the hospital, the Paramedic/Firefighters will not allow family/friends to ride in the ambulance. The hospitals are only allowing patients to enter their facilities.
- Many, if not most of us, may contract the virus. The virus is spread by respiratory droplets. Social distancing and hand washing are very effective in preventing the spread of the virus.
- Signs and symptoms of COVID-19 may appear two to 14 days after exposure and can include fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. The severity of COVID-19 symptoms can range from very mild to severe. People who are 60 or older or have existing medical conditions, such as heart or lung diseases, may be at higher risk of serious illness.
- Most people who contract the virus will be sick for about a week before they start to feel better.
- Call your doctor if you believe you are ill with the virus. There is no need to call 911 unless you develop respiratory distress, significant shortness of breath, decreased level of consciousness or do not get better after a week of illness.
- Currently, no antiviral medication is recommended to treat COVID-19. Treatment is directed at relieving the symptoms.
- For most healthy people, the best thing you can do to treat the illness is to self-isolate yourself at home, take pain relievers such as acetaminophen, hydrate and rest.
- We want to avoid overcrowding the hospitals and overwhelming the EMS systems. We still have to respond to calls for law enforcement, fires, and other medical emergencies and we need the hospitals to be available.
- Please call 911 for emergencies. Edina Police and Fire will respond to help you!

