

# QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

## COVID-19 Commonly Asked Questions from Chenango County residents Part 3

This is a rapidly evolving situation and information is subject to change.

### **WHAT are the symptoms of COVID-19?**

COVID-19 can cause mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of fever, cough, and difficulty breathing. Preliminary information suggests older adults and people with underlying health conditions or compromised immune systems may be at higher risk of severe illness from this virus. CDC believes that symptoms of COVID-19 begins between 2 and 14 days after exposure.

### **HOW does COVID-19 spread?**

While the initial transmission is believed to have been animal-to-person spread, COVID-19 is now spreading from person-to-person. This is thought to occur via respiratory droplets produced when a person infected with the virus coughs or sneezes, the same way flu and other respiratory illnesses spread. The virus that causes COVID-19 can also be transmitted for 2-3 days if people touch surfaces and objects with the virus on it.

### **WHEN are people most contagious?**

People with COVID-19 are believed to be most contagious when they are showing symptoms. Some early research shows that individuals with mild COVID-19 might be contagious even before they have symptoms, but it is not clear how common this is.

### **WHAT is community spread?**

Community spread means people have been infected with the virus in an area, including people who are not sure how or when they became infected. COVID-19 seems to be spreading easily and continually in the community.

### **WHO is at risk for getting COVID-19 in the United States?**

In the United States, cases have been reported in almost all states. People in communities where ongoing community spread is reported, healthcare workers, close contacts of persons with COVID-19, and travelers returning from affected international locations ARE at risk of getting COVID-19.

### **HIGH RISK: Who is at highest risk for getting very sick from COVID-19?**

According to limited research, older adults (65 plus), people who have chronic medical conditions, and people who are immunosuppressed are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19. Some examples of chronic medical conditions are heart disease, diabetes, lung disease, moderate or severe asthma, renal failure, liver disease, and severe obesity. Many conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, bone marrow or organ transplantation, immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medications.

### **SEASONALITY: Will warm weather stop the spread of COVID-19?**

It is not yet known whether weather and temperature impact the spread of COVID-19. Some other viruses, like the common cold and flu, spread more during cold weather months, but it is still possible to become sick with these viruses during other months. At this time, it is not known whether warmer weather will slow the spread of COVID-19.

For more information about COVID-19 go to [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

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