What is coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that are common across the world and cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV).

Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans. It is believed to have originated from a seafood and live animal market in the city of Wuhan, capital of the Chinese province of Hubei.

What are the symptoms of coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?

Typical symptoms of coronavirus include respiratory symptoms, fever and a cough that may progress to a severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath, breathing difficulties, severe acute respiratory syndrome and even death. The current evidence is that most cases appear to be mild. Those who have died in Wuhan appear to have had pre-existing health conditions.
Who's at risk from coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?
People of all ages can be infected by coronavirus. The WHO advises people of all ages to take steps to protect themselves from the virus, for example by following good hand hygiene and good respiratory hygiene.

Generally, coronavirus can cause more severe symptoms in older people, those with weakened immune systems and people with pre-existing or long-term medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease, cancer and chronic lung disease).

What are the treatments for coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?
There’s currently no specific medicine recommended to prevent or treat the new coronavirus (2019-nCoV), although some specific treatments are being investigated and will be tested through clinical trials.

Those infected with the virus should receive appropriate care to relieve and treat symptoms, and those with severe illness should receive optimised supportive care. Further advice should be sought from healthcare professionals.

How to reduce the risk of coronavirus (2019-nCoV) spreading
The standard recommendations and basic principles to reduce the general risk of transmission and prevent infection of acute respiratory infections include the following:

- Avoid close contact with anyone who has fever and cough.
- Frequent hand-washing using an alcohol-based hand rub or soap and water, especially after direct contact with ill people or their environment.
- People with symptoms of acute respiratory infection should seek medical care early and practise cough etiquette (maintain distance, cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing, throw tissue away immediately and wash hands).
- Within healthcare facilities, enhance standard infection prevention and control practices in hospitals, especially in emergency departments.

To make an enquiry contact the Arco customer services team on 0330 390 2050 or email customer.services@support.arco.co.uk.

Sources:
www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019
www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public

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