



## TRANSMISSION

## CONTAGION

## INCUBATION

## WHAT IS IT?

- Covid-19 is a virus of the coronavirus family that mainly attacks cells within the respiratory apparatus, possibly causing respiratory diseases, including pneumonia.
- The elderly, the vulnerable, and people with chronic diseases are more likely to develop a severe form of the disease.
- Covid-19 is a new disease. Scientific knowledge about it is evolving constantly, so it is essential to keep up to date, referring to reliable sources: [www.salute.gov.it/nuovocoronavirus](http://www.salute.gov.it/nuovocoronavirus)

## HOW IS IT TRANSMITTED?

Covid-19 is transmitted from person to person via infected droplets in respiratory secretions.

- Infected droplets can be spread by:

**COUGHING** **SNEEZING** **SPEAKING AT CLOSE DISTANCE**

- The droplets can get into the body through the:

**MOUTH** **NOSE** **EYES**

- Contagion occurs by way of

- Breathing in infected droplets

- Touching a surface on which droplets have fallen with your hands and then touching your eyes, mouth or nose



## WHO IS CONTAGIOUS?

Potentially we are all contagious, because **even those with no symptoms** can transmit the virus.

- Asymptomatic carriers: those who show no symptoms can be contagious especially in a period of 24-48 hours before the symptoms appear
- Symptomatic carriers: highly contagious, regardless of how severe the symptoms are.
- Convalescents: people who are recovering might still transmit the virus, so it is important to protect yourself with proper preventive measures to avoid the risk of infection even with those who have no symptoms.

## HOW LONG DOES INCUBATION LAST AFTER YOU ARE EXPOSED TO THE VIRUS?

- 2 to 12 days on average
- 95% of cases are manifest within 12 days of exposure
- Consequently the World Health Organization indicates 14 days as a reasonable period of quarantine for a person who has been exposed

## ONCE YOU'VE RECOVERED, ARE YOU PROTECTED AGAINST THE RISK OF GETTING THE DISEASE AGAIN?

You are likely to have developed antibodies that protect against re-infection, but we still do not know how long this "protection" may last – probably a period of months.

To learn more about MSF's action to stop the Covid-19 epidemic: [www.msf.it/covid19](http://www.msf.it/covid19)

