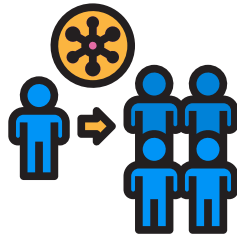
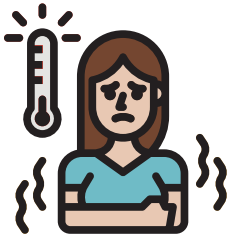


Asymptomatic Spread of COVID-19



What You May Have Heard

We know that COVID-19 can be spread by people who have symptoms of the infection (sore throat, low grade fever, shortness of breath or cough, abdominal pain/diarrhea, or new loss of taste or smell).

You may have also heard that asymptomatic people can spread the virus to others, but recently in the news it was stated that spread by people without symptoms is actually rare, leading to confusion by many.

The Facts

It is actually very common for people who are pre-symptomatic (i.e., those who contracted the virus and will, but haven't yet, developed symptoms) to spread the virus to others:

- In some parts of the world up to one-half of all COVID-19 cases trace back to individuals in the pre-symptomatic phase of illness.
- The pre-symptomatic phase usually lasts about 48-72 hours before symptoms appear.
- It is still unclear why some patients, especially children, will remain asymptomatic for the entire course of illness while others develop more severe symptoms early on during illness.

What Does It Mean To Me?

Because pre-symptomatic spread is common, it is essential that everyone adheres to measures that help prevent the spread of the virus, including:

- Washing your hands frequently
- Social distancing
- Wearing a mask when within six feet of others