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## What is 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?[1]

Chinese authorities identified the new coronavirus originating in Wuhan, China. Human coronaviruses[2] are common throughout the world and commonly cause mild to moderate illness. Two newer human coronaviruses, MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV, have been known to cause severe illness. A novel coronavirus, 2019-nCoV, emerged in 2019 and is causing concern.

The CDC has identified this emerging viral pathogen outbreak a Level 3, Warning – Avoid Nonessential Travel.[3] This virus has resulted in thousands of confirmed cases, including cases outside Wuhan, with additional cases being identified in a growing number of countries internationally. The first case in the United States was announced on January 21st and in Europe (France) on January 24th. Clinical signs and symptoms include fever and symptoms of lower respiratory illness (e.g., cough, shortness of breath). While severe illness, including illness resulting in numerous deaths, has been reported in China, other patients have had milder illness and been discharged. Person-to-person transmission has been reported in healthcare workers who were caring for some of the ill people in China.

## What hand hygiene products are effective against 2019-nCoV?

Washing your hands often with soap and water is one of the best ways to avoid transmission of emerging pathogens. The World Health Organization recommends performing hand hygiene with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub if soap and water are not available. The US Food and Drug Administration regulates claims on both medicated, antimicrobial soaps and on alcohol-based hand sanitizers. Claims related to efficacy against viruses are not allowed on any medicated, antimicrobial soaps nor on any alcohol-based hand sanitizers in the United States.

## What disinfectants are effective against 2019-nCoV?

The EPA has established guidance by which Ecolab can communicate the effectiveness of our hard surface disinfectants against emerging viral pathogens such as 2019-nCoV.[4] This guidance provides manufacturers an opportunity to address public concerns by permitting limited claims about their product's efficacy against such pathogens once the EPA confirms the product meets the eligibility criteria outlined in the guidance.

Look for statements like the examples below to determine if a product can be used against 2019-nCoV:

> **[Product name]** has demonstrated effectiveness against viruses similar to **2019 Novel Coronavirus** on hard, non-porous surfaces. Therefore, **[product name]** can be used against **2019 Novel Coronavirus** when used in accordance with the directions for use against **[name of supporting virus]** on hard, non-porous surfaces. Refer to the **CDC** website at https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/novel-coronavirus-china for additional information.
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> **2019 n-CoV** is caused by **2019 Novel Coronavirus. [Product name]** kills similar viruses and therefore can be used against **2019 Novel Coronavirus** when used in accordance with the directions for use against **[name of supporting virus]** on hard, non-porous surfaces. Refer to the **CDC** website at https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/alert/novel-coronavirus-china for additional information.

References:
[1] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2019 Novel Coronavirus. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html
[2] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Coronavirus Summary. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html
[3] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Novel Coronavirus in China. https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices/warning/novel-coronavirus-china
[4] Environmental Protection Agency, Emerging Viral Pathogen Guidance for Antimicrobial Pesticides. www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/emerging-viral-pathogen-guidance-antimicrobial-pesticides