



Helping the public navigate and evaluate health information online

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Accelerating Biomedical Discovery and Data-Powered Health

Search NLM



PubMed
Citations for biomedical
literature



MedlinePlus
Reliable, up-to-date health
information for you



Open-i
An experimental
multimedia search engine



TOXNET
Search databases
on hazardous chemicals



ClinicalTrials.gov
A database of clinical
studies, worldwide



BLAST
Basic Local Alignment
Search Tool

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Get rapid access to the NLM's [GenBank sequence data](#) at the [severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 \(SARS-CoV-2\) data hub](#).

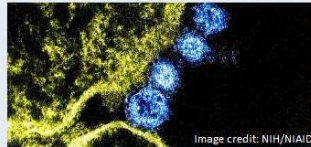


Image credit: NIH/NIAID

Additional NLM Resources:

- Clinical studies related to the coronavirus disease ([ClinicalTrials.gov](#))
- Public health emergency literature and information ([Disaster Lit](#))
- Journal article citations ([PubMed](#))
- Consumer information on coronavirus infections available in English and Spanish ([MedlinePlus](#))
- New MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) Supplementary Concept Record ([Read more](#))

Other Coronavirus Disease Information

- National Institutes of Health
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- World Health Organization

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MedlinePlus
Trusted Health Information for You

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Health Topics Drugs & Supplements Videos & Tools Español

Health Topics
Find information on health, wellness, disorders and conditions

Drugs & Supplements
Learn about prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines, herbs, and supplements

Videos & Tools
Discover tutorials, health and surgery videos, games, and quizzes

Medical Tests
Learn why your doctor orders medical tests and what the results may mean

Medical Encyclopedia
Articles and images for diseases, symptoms, tests, treatments

Share MedlinePlus

Looking for information on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)?

Check out our **Coronavirus Infections** page for the latest resources.

Tweets by @MedlinePlus

MedlinePlus.gov @medlineplus

RT @womenshealth: People with eating disorders may appear healthy, yet be very ill. Learn about common #eatingdisorders so you can spot the signs early: go.usa.gov/xEC54. #NEDAwareness

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Health Information for All of Us Research Program Participants

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Health Topics Drugs & Supplements Videos & Tools Español

Home → Health Topics → Coronavirus Infections

Coronavirus Infections
Also called: COVID-19

On this page

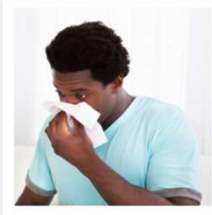
<p>Basics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary • Start Here • Prevention and Risk Factors • Treatments and Therapies 	<p>Learn More</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specifics 	<p>See, Play and Learn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No links available
<p>Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics and Research • Clinical Trials • Journal Articles 	<p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find an Expert 	<p>For You</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children • Patient Handouts

2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Special Information

The 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is a new type of coronavirus. It causes respiratory illness in people. It was first identified in Wuhan, China.

2019-nCoV can spread from person to person. This usually happens through respiratory droplets - when someone with the virus coughs or sneezes, and you breathe it in. Most often, you need to be close to the person (within 6 feet) for it to spread this way. It is not clear whether you can get it by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching your own mouth, nose, or possibly your eyes.

There are some cases of 2019-nCoV in the United States. But at this time, it is NOT spreading in communities in the U.S. The greatest risk of infection is for people who are in China or who



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MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

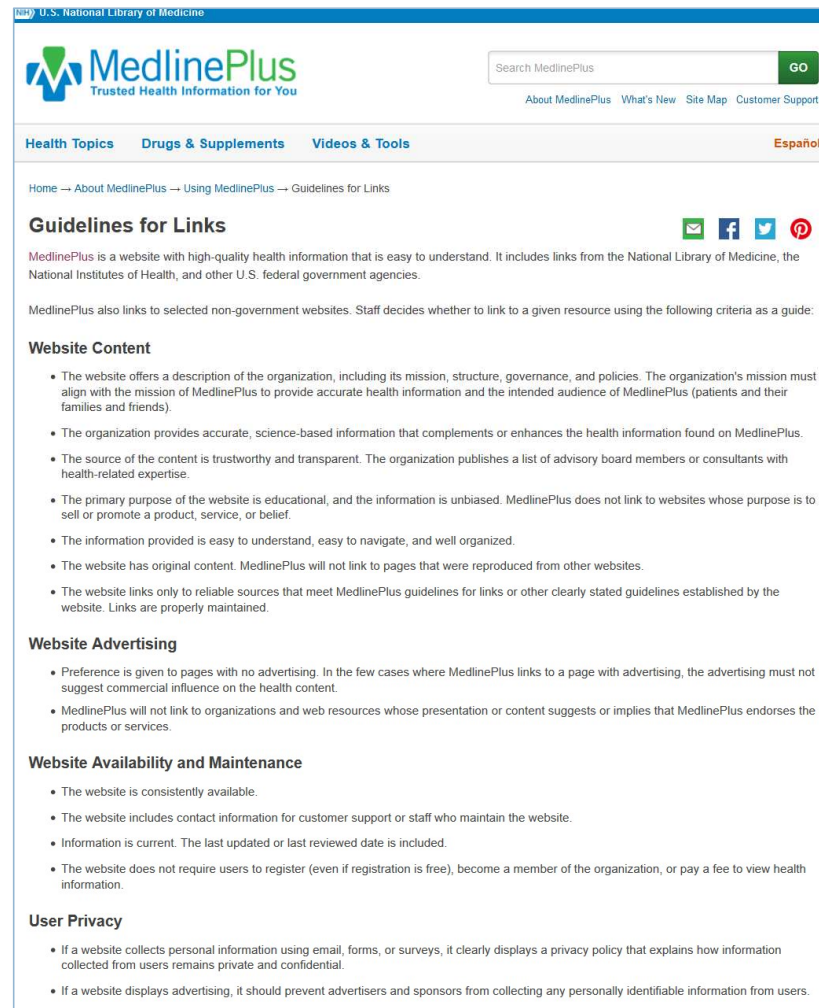
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS)



Criteria for selecting high-quality health information online

Goals: Fairness, transparency, and objectivity

- **Content:** source, purpose, understandability
- **Advertising:** No commercial influence on content
- **Availability:** currency, no registration required
- **Privacy:** clear policies



The screenshot shows the MedlinePlus website interface. At the top, there is a search bar with the text 'Search MedlinePlus' and a 'GO' button. Below the search bar are navigation links: 'About MedlinePlus', 'What's New', 'Site Map', and 'Customer Support'. The main navigation bar includes 'Health Topics', 'Drugs & Supplements', and 'Videos & Tools', with a language option for 'Español'. The page title is 'Guidelines for Links'. The content area includes a breadcrumb trail: 'Home → About MedlinePlus → Using MedlinePlus → Guidelines for Links'. The page is divided into several sections: 'Website Content', 'Website Advertising', 'Website Availability and Maintenance', and 'User Privacy'. Each section contains a list of criteria for selecting high-quality health information online.

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Search MedlinePlus GO

About MedlinePlus What's New Site Map Customer Support

Health Topics Drugs & Supplements Videos & Tools Español

Home → About MedlinePlus → Using MedlinePlus → Guidelines for Links

Guidelines for Links

MedlinePlus is a website with high-quality health information that is easy to understand. It includes links from the National Library of Medicine, the National Institutes of Health, and other U.S. federal government agencies.

MedlinePlus also links to selected non-government websites. Staff decides whether to link to a given resource using the following criteria as a guide:

Website Content

- The website offers a description of the organization, including its mission, structure, governance, and policies. The organization's mission must align with the mission of MedlinePlus to provide accurate health information and the intended audience of MedlinePlus (patients and their families and friends).
- The organization provides accurate, science-based information that complements or enhances the health information found on MedlinePlus.
- The source of the content is trustworthy and transparent. The organization publishes a list of advisory board members or consultants with health-related expertise.
- The primary purpose of the website is educational, and the information is unbiased. MedlinePlus does not link to websites whose purpose is to sell or promote a product, service, or belief.
- The information provided is easy to understand, easy to navigate, and well organized.
- The website has original content. MedlinePlus will not link to pages that were reproduced from other websites.
- The website links only to reliable sources that meet MedlinePlus guidelines for links or other clearly stated guidelines established by the website. Links are properly maintained.

Website Advertising

- Preference is given to pages with no advertising. In the few cases where MedlinePlus links to a page with advertising, the advertising must not suggest commercial influence on the health content.
- MedlinePlus will not link to organizations and web resources whose presentation or content suggests or implies that MedlinePlus endorses the products or services.

Website Availability and Maintenance

- The website is consistently available.
- The website includes contact information for customer support or staff who maintain the website.
- Information is current. The last updated or last reviewed date is included.
- The website does not require users to register (even if registration is free), become a member of the organization, or pay a fee to view health information.

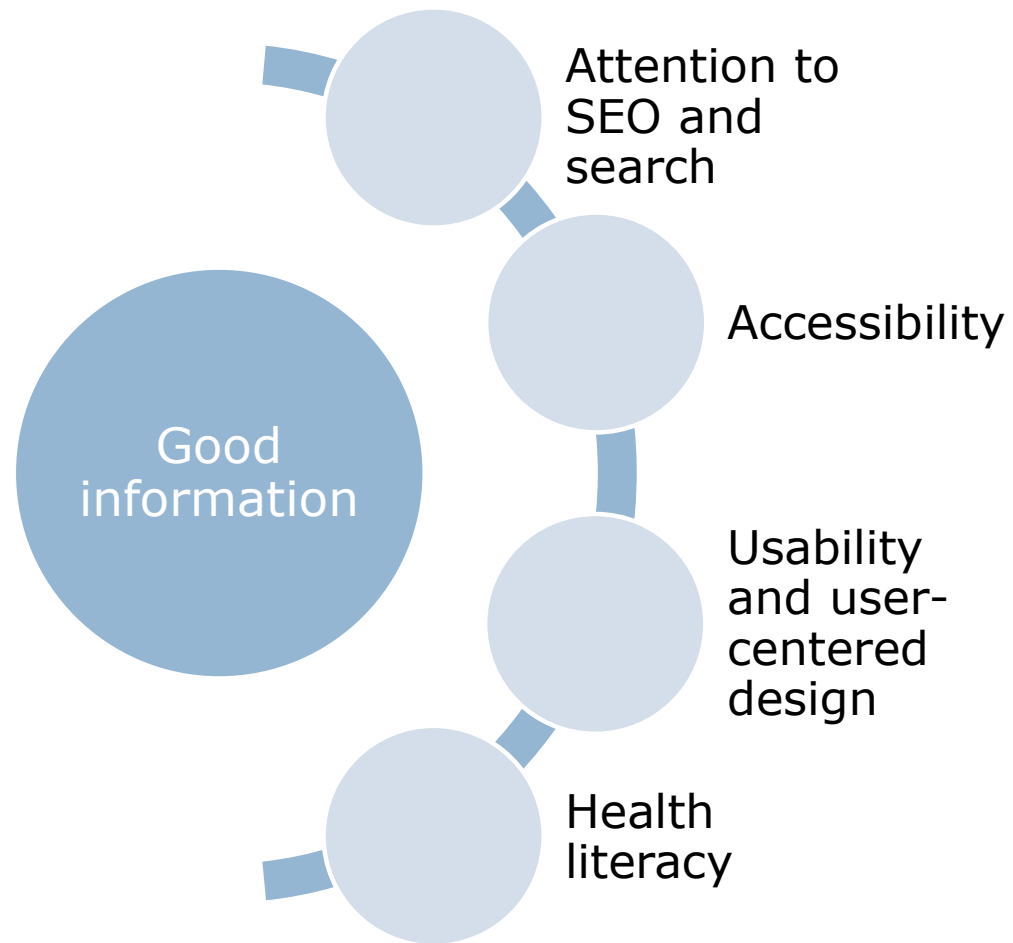
User Privacy

- If a website collects personal information using email, forms, or surveys, it clearly displays a privacy policy that explains how information collected from users remains private and confidential.
- If a website displays advertising, it should prevent advertisers and sponsors from collecting any personally identifiable information from users.



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<https://medlineplus.gov/about/using/criteria/>



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<https://digital.gov/>
<https://www.usability.gov/>

<https://health.gov/healthliteracyonline/>
<https://www.section508.gov/>

Equipping the public to evaluate health information online

Evaluating Internet Health Information: A Tutorial From the National Library of Medicine



- This tutorial teaches you how to evaluate the health information you find on the Internet.
- The tutorial has five sections. Use the navigation bar at the top and the arrows on each page to go forward or backward.
- You can use this tutorial on our Web site or download [Evaluating Internet Health Information: A Tutorial](#) (PDF, 3.2 MB).
- You can download a [checklist](#) for Evaluating Internet Health Information (PDF, 497 KB) to help you remember what to look for when you look at health information.

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[About this Site](#)

Physicians Academy for Better Health

[Diseases & Conditions](#) [Diet & Nutrition](#) [Exercise](#) [Medication & Treatment](#)

Genetics may explain why some people can lower their cholesterol by altering their diet and exercise habits while others who take similar measures do not see significant decreases.

A study comparing the cholesterol levels of twins with starkly different body types and exercise habits found that the twins showed the same response to high-fat or low-fat diets. This suggests that genetics may determine how a person's cholesterol responds to dietary or lifestyle changes. The study was in the July 2015 issue of the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.

What the Numbers Mean

Cholesterol levels are measured in milligrams (mg) of cholesterol per deciliter (dL) of blood.

Total Cholesterol Level	Category
Less than 200 mg/dL	Desirable
200-239 mg/dL	Borderline High
240 mg/dL and above	High

Source: NHLBI

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<https://medlineplus.gov/webeval/webeval.html>

Equipping the public to evaluate health information online

Evaluating Internet Health Information: Checklist

- This tutorial teaches you how to evaluate health information online.
- The tutorial has five sections.
- You can use this tutorial to evaluate health information.
- You can download a checklist to use when you look for health information.

MedlinePlus Evaluating Internet Health Information: Checklist

Provider

Who is in charge of the Web site?
Why are they providing the site?
Can you contact them?

Funding

Where does the money to support the site come from?
Does the site have advertisements? Are they labeled?

Quality

Where does the information on the site come from?
How is the content selected?
Do experts review the information that goes on the site?
Does the site avoid unbelievable or emotional claims?
Is it up-to-date?

Privacy

Does the site ask for your personal information?
Do they tell you how it will be used?
Are you comfortable with how it will be used?

Find reliable health information on [MedlinePlus.gov](https://medlineplus.gov), the National Institutes of Health's site for patients, their families and friends.

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<https://medlineplus.gov/webeval/webeval.html>

Evaluating Health Information

On this page

Basics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary Start Here 	Learn More <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Related Issues Specifics 	See, Play and Learn <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Videos and Tutorials
Research <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statistics and Research Journal Articles 	Resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find an Expert 	For You <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient Handouts

Summary


Millions of consumers get health information from magazines, TV or the Internet. Some of the information is reliable and up to date; some is not. How can you tell the good from the bad?


First, consider the source. If you use the Web, look for an "about us" page. Check to see who runs the site: Is it a branch of the government, a university, a health organization, a hospital or a business? Focus on quality. Does the site have an editorial board? Is the information reviewed before it is posted? Be skeptical. Things that sound too good to be true often are. You want current, unbiased information based on [research](#).

NIH: National Library of Medicine

Start Here

- Evaluating Internet Health Information: A Tutorial from the National Library of Medicine [NIH](#) [Interactive tutorial](#) (National Library of Medicine)
- Finding and Evaluating Online Resources on Complementary Health Approaches [NIH](#) (National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health)
Also in Spanish
- Health Information on the Web: Finding Reliable Information (American Academy of Family Physicians)
Also in Spanish
- MedlinePlus Guide to Healthy Web Surfing [NIH](#) (National Library of Medicine)
Also in Spanish
- Trust It or Trash It? (Genetic Alliance)
Also in Spanish
- Using Trusted Resources [NIH](#) (National Cancer Institute)
Also in Spanish





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Online health information - what can you trust?

Related Health Topics

Understanding Medical Research

National Institutes of Health

The primary NIH organization for research on *Evaluating Health Information* is the National Library of Medicine

Libraries help people find trustworthy information online by:

- Providing access to the internet
- Searching and filtering results
- Finding reliable and unbiased information sources
- Offering tools and expertise for evaluating information
- Promoting information literacy





- Tool to link patient portals, electronic health records, and other health IT systems to trusted consumer health information
- From MedlinePlus & several other NIH institutes
- Free and open API
- Provides tailored information in context at the point of care



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<https://medlineplus.gov/connect/overview.html>