



## How to Prevent Spreading of GI Viruses in the Age of COVID-19 Advice from Digestive Disease Experts from the American College of Gastroenterology

The American College of Gastroenterology (ACG) wants to remind everyone that with increasing scientific data suggesting the presence of the coronavirus (COVID-19) in stool (feces), it is more important than ever for people with diarrhea – especially if accompanied by fever – to be extremely careful.

Digestive health experts from the ACG urge you to take common sense steps to prevent spreading viruses when using the bathroom. These important protections apply to *any* viruses with GI symptoms, whether COVID-19 infection is present or not.

While the data does not yet clearly confirm that COVID-19 can spread through stool, its presence in the stool should lead anyone with new symptoms of diarrhea and fever, particularly those with known or suspected contact with COVID-19, to take steps to isolate themselves and call their doctor or local health department.

### Common Sense Steps to Prevent Spreading Any GI Virus

Patients with diarrhea symptoms and fever should take these safe, smart, everyday steps that anyone should take whenever they are suffering from any form of diarrhea that is caused by an underlying infection, COVID or otherwise:

- take special care to wipe down toilets after use,
- use a different roll of toilet paper than those with whom you share a bathroom,
- and wipe the toilet handle and doorknobs.

### More Information on COVID-19 for GI Patients

The American College of Gastroenterology and its more than 14,000 physicians are committed to the digestive and liver health of patients everywhere.

- **COVID-19 Pandemic: How Will This Affect Your Care and What to Ask Your Gastrointestinal (GI) Doctor**  
*General Information for GI Patients in a handout by the ACG Patient Care Committee*  
[bit.ly/ACG-COVID19-GI-Patients](https://bit.ly/ACG-COVID19-GI-Patients)
- **Inflammatory Bowel Disease and COVID-19 Patient Information**  
*ACG Experts on Inflammatory Bowel Disease offer specific guidance in a handout for patients with IBD during the COVID-19 Pandemic*  
[bit.ly/ACG-COVID19-IBD-Patient](https://bit.ly/ACG-COVID19-IBD-Patient)

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