What is the novel coronavirus?
The 2019 novel coronavirus, or COVID-19, is a new respiratory virus first identified in Wuhan, China. Symptoms of COVID-19 may include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

Is UI Health prepared to respond to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 patients?
Yes, UI Health is prepared to safely care for any patient suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 and to minimize the risk of exposure to other patients, visitors, staff and the surrounding community. All patients at UI Health are screened for recent travel and symptoms, based on the latest guidelines from public health officials. All health care providers who interact with patients suspected or confirmed to have novel coronavirus are proactively monitored and protected.

If I think I have been exposed to COVID-19, what should I do?
Before coming in for your visit or the emergency department, call UI Health at 866-600-CARE to consult with a health care professional about what you should do if you are having symptoms that include fever, cough or shortness of breath. You will be asked some questions about travel history and symptoms when you call and provided with personalized guidance.

If you have questions about COVID-19, contact the Illinois Department of Public Health hotline at 1-800-889-3931 or email at dph.sick@illinois.gov.

How can I protect myself from COVID-19?
The most important steps to take are the same for every cold and flu season:
• Get a flu shot if you have not gotten it yet.
• Wash your hands regularly with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
• Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
• Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze—remember to wash your hands afterward.
• Avoid close contact with sick people. If you are sick, stay home from school or work for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities.
• Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs.

Can I get screened for COVID-19?
Currently testing is performed with approval of the Department of Health for patients with respiratory symptoms that have traveled from areas of COVID-19 activity or have been in contact with a confirmed case. In addition, patients hospitalized with severe pneumonia without a known cause may be tested.

For more information and the latest updates and guidelines about the coronavirus, please encourage patients to visit the Centers for Disease Control at cdc.gov/covid19.