



COVID-19 is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation.

Get the latest public health information from CDC: <https://www.coronavirus.gov>.

Get the latest research from NIH: <https://www.nih.gov/coronavirus>.

Find NCBI SARS-CoV-2 literature, sequence, and clinical content: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sars-cov-2/>.

FULL TEXT LINKS



Review > [J Gastroenterol Hepatol](#). 2020 May;35(5):744-748. doi: 10.1111/jgh.15047.

Epub 2020 Apr 19.

## Covid-19 and the Digestive System

Sunny H Wong <sup>1 2</sup>, Rashid Ns Lui <sup>1 2</sup>, Joseph Jy Sung <sup>1 2</sup>

Affiliations

PMID: 32215956 DOI: [10.1111/jgh.15047](https://doi.org/10.1111/jgh.15047)

### Abstract

The novel coronavirus disease is currently causing a major pandemic. It is caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), a member of the Betacoronavirus genus that also includes the SARS-CoV and Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus. While patients typically present with fever and a respiratory illness, some patients also report gastrointestinal symptoms such as diarrhea, vomiting, and abdominal pain. Studies have identified the SARS-CoV-2 RNA in stool specimens of infected patients, and its viral receptor angiotensin converting enzyme 2 was found to be highly expressed in gastrointestinal epithelial cells. These suggest that SARS-CoV-2 can actively infect and replicate in the gastrointestinal tract. This has important implications to the disease management, transmission, and infection control. In this article, we review the important gastrointestinal aspects of the disease.

**Keywords:** Covid-19; coronavirus; diarrhea; gastrointestinal infection; pneumonia.

© 2020 Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Foundation and John Wiley & Sons Australia, Ltd.

### Supplementary concepts

> [COVID-19](#)

> [severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2](#)

### LinkOut – more resources

#### Full Text Sources

[Ovid Technologies, Inc.](#)

[Wiley](#)

#### Medical

[ClinicalTrials.gov](#)

[MedlinePlus Health Information](#)

#### Miscellaneous

[NCI CPTAC Assay Portal](#)