

Is it safe to stay in hotels as reopenings get underway?

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Illustration by Peter Hamlin

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It depends on the precautions both you and the [hotel](#) take. It's best to call ahead to see how the place you're considering is working to minimize the risk of COVID-19. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention changes they're making on their websites. New practices may include

adding hand sanitizer stations in lobbies, disinfecting surfaces like elevator buttons more frequently and removing extra items in rooms, such as pens and paper. Breakfast buffets may also be replaced with prepackaged [meals](#).

Once at a hotel, Dr. Albert Ko at the Yale School of Public Health says guests should continue to follow social distancing guidelines, since the virus spreads mainly from person-to-person contact. Dine outside if possible, he says, and don't crowd into elevators.

The CDC also suggests taking the stairs when possible and minimizing the use of common areas.

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