

Update on Novel Coronavirus Originating in Wuhan, China

Update to York Region community health care providers as of January 24, 2020

The novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) situation continues to evolve with case counts increasing daily, primarily in Wuhan, China. Additional cases are being reported in other parts of China, elsewhere in Asia and now in the USA, and seem to be related to the original outbreak. Human to human transmission has been confirmed, though the extent of transmission is still to be determined.

There have been no confirmed cases in Canada and there are no known cases involving Canadians overseas. **At this time, the risk to York Region residents is low.** The World Health Organization (WHO) has not declared 2019-nCoV a public health emergency of international concern, but continues to monitor the situation very closely. The Public Health Agency of Canada, Ontario's Ministry of Health, public health units and health system and other partners are working closely to monitor, plan and respond to this evolving situation.

As of January 22, 2020, Ontario's Ministry of Health has made this novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV required to be reported to local public health as a "disease caused by novel coronaviruses, including SARS and MERS". With this change in the Regulations, you must contact York Region Public Health directly to report, as you would to report other diseases of public health significance.

Contact York Region Public Health immediately if you suspect a case of 2019-nCoV

What to look for:

- A person with fever* and acute respiratory illness, or pneumonia
AND any of the following:
 - Travel to Wuhan, China in the 14 days before onset of illness **OR**
 - Close contact with a confirmed or probable case of 2019-nCoV **OR**
 - Close contact with a person with acute respiratory illness who has been to Wuhan, China within 14 days prior to their illness onset

**Note: fever may not be present in elderly patients or people who are immunocompromised*

Call 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73588 Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or **905-953-6478** after hours (before 8:30 a.m. and after 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday and 24 hours per day on weekends/holidays).

If you suspect a case of 2019-nCoV in your clinic:

- separate them from other patients, use droplet and contact precautions, instruct them to wash their hands and wear a surgical mask
- **Contact public health immediately** at the number above to report the suspect case and to discuss plans for appropriate specimen collection; additional actions and infection prevention and control measures will be required before any testing could occur.

Reminders for patients with acute respiratory symptoms

- When possible, screen patients before they arrive to take appropriate infection prevention and control (IPAC) precautions
- Apply acute respiratory infection (ARI) screening and use droplet and contact precautions when people present with ARI symptoms (as is usually advised)
- Don't forget about other coronaviruses and respiratory infections! Remind your patients about effective hand washing, preventing spread of infections and keeping up to date on their immunizations like influenza and pneumococcal

Additional Helpful Resources

For general information on novel coronavirus:

York Region Public Health
york.ca/coronavirus

Public Health Ontario – Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus>

For testing information:

PHO Laboratory Wuhan Novel Coronavirus Test Information Sheet

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/laboratory-services/test-information-index/wuhan-novel-coronavirus>

Note: contact York Region Public Health before testing

For infection prevention and control information:

World Health Organization - Infection prevention and control during health care when novel coronavirus infection is suspected

<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/330375/WHO-2019-nCoV-IPC-v2020.1-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Contact York Region Public Health

If you have any questions, contact York Region Public Health's Control of Infectious Diseases program at **1-877-464-9675 ext. 73588**, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Connect to york.ca/healthprofessionals for insights on current public health topics, up-to-date information and resources from York Region Public Health's programs and services. Visit the **Announcements and Resources** page for our latest communications and to subscribe to our quarterly e-newsletter *Public Health Matters*, which covers topics relevant to today's health care professionals