

Undiagnosed Viral Pneumonia in Central China

Update to York Region health care providers as of January 13, 2020

This is a follow-up to our last communication sent to you on January 8, 2020 regarding the outbreak of viral pneumonia in Central China, with symptoms of illness including fever and new or worsening cough or shortness of breath.

On January 9, 2020, Chinese authorities reported a preliminary determination of a novel coronavirus causing the cluster. This novel coronavirus has been diagnosed in 41 cases. Importantly, there remains no evidence of person to person transmission and to date, there has been only 1 death associated with this cluster (in an individual with serious underlying medical conditions). The outbreak of undiagnosed viral pneumonia in central China is highly associated with a seafood market in Wuhan, China. Most cases either worked at or frequently visited this market which has been closed since January 1, 2020, and so far, the last detected case occurred on January 3 2020 with no other confirmed associated cases since.

As a reminder, there have been no cases of this novel coronavirus identified outside of Wuhan, China and the risk to York Region residents remains low. No suspected cases have occurred in Canada and there are no known cases involving Canadians overseas. Regardless, we ask that health care providers in York Region remain vigilant and follow the advice outlined below.

Contact York Region Public Health immediately if you suspect a diagnosis of acute respiratory infection with recent travel (< 14 days prior to onset) to Wuhan, China

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).

For community health care providers:

- Report any suspicious cases right away to York Region Public Health (as above)
- Remember to ask about recent travel to Wuhan, China when people present with acute respiratory symptoms
- Use contact/droplet precautions when people present with acute respiratory symptoms (as is usually advised)
- As an interim measure, please refer to the below listed resources (available on the Ministry's website) for details on the management of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome – Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) to guide your readiness to support public health management of a person under investigation for or a case of this novel coronavirus.
- Although a specific diagnostic test is not yet available, there are specific methods and sequencing tests that will be used for any specimens submitted. Refer to the Public Health Ontario Laboratory Wuhan Novel Coronavirus Test Information Sheet for more information on the samples to collect and algorithm

Helpful Resources

Middle East Respiratory Syndrome – Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/>

PHO Laboratory Wuhan Novel Coronavirus Test Information Sheet

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

Routine Practices and Additional Precautions

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/health-topics/infection-prevention-control/routine-practices-additional-precautions>

PUBLIC HEALTH

york.ca/healthprofessionals



Baseline Requirements for Infectious Disease Threats

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/emb/docs/Resilient_plan_2016_en.pdf

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.

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