

HALTON REGION HEALTH DEPARTMENT • Office of the Medical Officer of Health

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TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments

FROM: Dr. Joanna Oda, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: January 16, 2020

RE: Novel Coronavirus in Wuhan, China

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### QUICK FACTS

- Chinese authorities suspect a novel coronavirus (nCoV) is responsible for an outbreak of viral pneumonia associated with a seafood market in Wuhan, China. The market was closed on January 1, 2020.
- The situation continues to evolve. The latest information is available through the [World Health Organization](#) and the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#).
- As of January 11, 2020, 41 persons have been diagnosed with nCoV, and 1 death has been reported. There is currently no evidence of human-to-human spread.
- Persons under investigation (PUI) associated with this cluster have also been identified in neighbouring countries (Hong Kong, Thailand, South Korea). All with a travel history to Wuhan.

### KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- Hospitals and Health Care Workers should identify patients who meet the following criteria:
  - fever and acute respiratory illness OR pneumonia AND
  - travel to the city of Wuhan, China within 14 days of illness onset.
- In addition to [Routine Infection Prevention and Control Practices](#), individuals who meet the above criteria should be placed on **Droplet/Contact Precautions**; in a single room and preferably with negative pressure in case aerosol-generating procedures are performed. **N95 respirator** is to be worn for aerosol-generating procedures and during the collection of laboratory specimens.
- Hospitals should notify their infection Prevention and Control departments and the Ministry of Health at 1-866-212-2272 of a PUI without disclosing Personal Health Information.
- Public Health Ontario Laboratory's testing guidance for Wuhan nCoV is available [online](#).

### KEY MESSAGES FOR PATIENTS

- Currently, the risk of infection with the novel coronavirus in Ontario is low.
- Travellers should consult the [Travel Canada website](#) for the latest health advice prior to departure.

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) (including positive TB skin test results) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES

IF YOU CAN'T ACCESS HYPERLINKS, PLEASE SIGN UP FOR ELECTRONIC UPDATES BY EMAILING DOCTORS@HALTON.CA