TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments

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

DATE: February 10, 2020

RE: Updated information re: 2019-Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

QUICK FACTS

- There has been an update to the reporting criteria for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and new advice for travellers returning from Hubei province and other areas of mainland China.
- Physicians, hospitals and other facilities should report persons meeting the criteria below to Halton Region Public Health by calling 311:
  - A person with fever OR onset of cough or difficulty breathing AND any of the following:
    - Travel to mainland China (excludes Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan) 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 mainland China (excludes Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan) within 14 days prior to their illness onset
  - A close contact is defined as a person who provided care for the patient, including healthcare workers, family members or other caregivers, and household members.
- Hospitals should also notify their Infection Prevention and Control Departments.
- While the risk in Ontario remains low, the situation continues to evolve rapidly. Halton Region Public Health will provide updates as more information becomes available.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- The Ministry has updated the 2019-nCoV Guidance for Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting and launched a dedicated website for healthcare workers and health sector employers. Additionally, a 24/7 Health Care Provider Hotline is available at 1-866-212-2272.
- In addition to routine practices, the Ministry of Health continues to recommend individuals who meet the criteria above be placed on Droplet, Contact and Airborne Precautions.
- 2019-nCoV testing details are online. Public Health Ontario Laboratory must pre-approve testing.
- As of February 10, 2020, Ontario has three confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV; British Columbia has four. In Ontario, 197 persons have undergone testing for 2019-nCoV. This information is updated daily on the Ministry website.

KEY MESSAGES FOR PATIENTS

- Travellers who have returned from Hubei province are asked to:
  - Contact Halton Region Public Health by calling 311, within 24 hours of arriving in Canada AND
  - Self-isolate and avoid close contact with others, including those in their home, for 14 days from the date they left Hubei province
- Travellers who have returned from other areas of mainland China (excludes Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan) are asked to:
Monitor for signs and symptoms for 14 days from the date they left China; and are advised to avoid crowded public places.
If symptoms develop, self-isolate and contact Halton Region Public Health by calling 311. If symptoms are severe, call 911 and inform them of your symptoms and travel history.

- Information continues to evolve rapidly. Patients can visit Halton Region’s or the Ministry of Health’s website for up to date information

- The best way to prevent infection is to:
  - Wash hands often or use alcohol based sanitizer
  - Practice cough and sneeze etiquette
  - Avoid contact with others when sick

- Public Health Agency of Canada recommends avoiding non-essential travel to China. Travellers should check the Travel Canada website for the latest travel 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