

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: 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