

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 30, 2020

RE: Updated information re:2019-Novel Coronavirus

QUICK FACTS

- There has been an update to the reporting criteria for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV).
- Physicians, hospitals and other facilities should report persons meeting the criteria below to Halton Public Health by calling 311:
 - A person with fever **OR** acute respiratory illness, or pneumonia **AND** any of the following:
 - Travel to Hubei Province, China (including Wuhan), 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 Hubei Province, China (including Wuhan) within 14 days prior to their illness onset
- Hospitals should also notify their Infection Prevention and Control Departments.
- As of January 29, 2020, Ontario has two cases of 2019-nCoV; British Columbia has one. In Ontario, there are 23 cases under investigation. This information is updated daily on the [ministry website](#).
- The two Ontario cases traveled on China Southern Airlines flight CZ311, arriving in Toronto on January 22, 2020. Close contacts on the flight are being contacted by public health. Other travellers on the flight are advised to monitor for symptoms for 14 days and contact local public health, if they become symptomatic.
- While the risk in Ontario remains low, the situation continues to evolve rapidly. Halton Public Health will provide updates as more information becomes available.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- The Ministry has released [2019-nCoV Guidance for Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting](#) and a dedicated [website](#) for healthcare workers and health sector employers
- 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 per, [PIDAC's guidance for infection prevention and control for clinical office practice settings](#), continue to ask patients with fever and cough, regardless of travel history to wash their hands, wear a mask and wait in a separate area away from other patients

(see page 2 for KEY MESSAGES FOR PATIENTS)

KEY MESSAGES FOR PATIENTS

- The risk of infection with the novel coronavirus in Ontario remains low. Patients can visit [Halton Region's](#) or the [Ministry of Health's](#) website for up to date information
- Asymptomatic individuals with or without travel history do **not** have to isolate or cancel activities.
- If you become sick after travelling, see a health care professional. Call ahead and tell them your travel history and symptoms so that appropriate precautions can be put into place.
- 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](#) now recommends avoiding all non-essential travel to China. Travellers should regularly check the [Travel Canada website](#) for the latest travel advice.

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