

Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Update for Partners

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

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[Message from the Medical Officer of Health](#)

[Current Situation](#)

[Risk Assessment](#)

[Public Health Planning and Response](#)

Message from the Medical Officer of Health

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is actively monitoring the rapidly evolving the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) situation and will provide regular updates as needed as a means to support your information needs, planning, communications and access to resources.

The updates will be based on the best available information at the time, acknowledging that the novel nature of 2019-nCoV means it will continue to be monitored closely (locally, provincially, nationally and worldwide) and analyzed to ensure that recommendations and actions are based on the best available knowledge.

We will also continue to work with and communicate to partners through regular channels where they exist to support ongoing planning and updates, including to all health care agencies, physicians and primary care providers. If you have questions please contact your regular health unit liaison contact or call Health Connection at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles Gardner

Medical Office of Health

Current Situation

World

- On December 31, 2019, an outbreak of respiratory illness with pneumonia-like symptoms was reported in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.
- The cause has been confirmed as 2019-nCoV, a new coronavirus that has not previously been identified in humans.
- Hundreds of infections with 2019-nCoV have been reported in China, including outside of Hubei Province.

- Human infections with 2019-nCoV have been confirmed in Taiwan, Thailand, Japan, South Korea, and the United States. The first case in the United States was announced on January 21, 2020.

Canada/Ontario

- There are no identified cases of 2019-nCoV in Canada at this time.

Risk Assessment

- The Public Health Agency of Canada has assessed the public health risk associated with 2019-nCoV as **low** for Canada and for Canadian travelers.
- Public health risk is continually reassessed as new information becomes available.

Public Health Planning and Response

National

- The Public Health Agency of Canada is working with international partners, including the World Health Organization, to actively monitor the situation.
- Canada's Chief Public Health Officer of Canada is in close contact with provincial and territorial Chief Medical Officers of Health to ensure that Canada is prepared to rapidly identify and manage 2019-nCoV should it arrive in Canada.

Provincial

- The Government of Ontario has made 2019-nCoV a **reportable disease**, which means public health can track and investigate cases of the disease and close human contacts.
- Health sector partners in Ontario are preparing a coordinated response, based on learning from SARS, including surge planning for increased demand for healthcare, etc.

SMDHU

- SMDHU is working with health sector partners to increase screening and infection prevention control measures in health care settings.
- Further information is available on our [website](#).