

Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Update for Partners

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

January 29, 2020

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Message from the Medical Officer of Health

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) continues to actively monitor the rapidly evolving novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) situation and will continue to provide weekly updates as needed as a means to support your information needs, planning, communications and access to resources. The weekly 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. Previous updates can be found at www.smdhu.org/coronavirus.

Dr. Charles Gardner
Medical Office of Health

Current Situation (as of 08:00 January 30, 2020)

World

- There are over 7800 cases of 2019-nCoV worldwide.
- The vast majority of these cases are being reported from China where over 7700 2019-nCoV cases have been confirmed, with 170 resulting in death.
- No deaths from 2019-nCoV have been reported outside of China.
- Human infections of 2019-nCoV have also been confirmed in 19 other countries outside of China, including in other parts of Asia, Europe, North America and Oceania.
- For up-to-date information see the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control website](#).

Canada

- There are 3 confirmed cases in Canada – two in Ontario, one in British Columbia.

Ontario

- There are two confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV in Ontario.
- For up-to-date information on cases being investigated in Ontario see the [Ontario Ministry of Health](#).

Simcoe Muskoka

- There are no confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV in the County of Simcoe or District of Muskoka.

Risk Assessment

- The Public Health Agency of Canada continues to assess the public health risk associated with 2019-nCoV as ***low*** for Canada and for Canadian travelers.
- The risk of the spread of 2019-nCoV within Ontario remains low at this time.
- 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 within Canada and with international partners, including the World Health Organization, to actively monitor the situation.
- The Chief Public Health Officer of Canada is in close contact with provincial and territorial Chief Medical Officers of Health to ensure that any cases of 2019-nCoV occurring in Canada continue to be rapidly identified and managed in order to protect the health of Canadians.
- The Government of Canada is advising Canadians to
 - Avoid all non-essential travel to China; and
 - Avoid all travel to Hubei Province in China.
 - For up to date travel advisories see [Government of Canada Travel Advice and Advisories](#)

Provincial

- 2019-nCoV is a ***reportable disease*** in Ontario, meaning public health is tracking and investigating cases of the disease and close human contacts.
- Health sector and other system partners are responding in a coordinated manner to detect, respond to and prevent the spread of 2019-nCoV in the province.

- Primary care guidance documents have been released and will be updated as needed.

SMDHU

- SMDHU is working with health sector partners to increase screening and infection prevention control measures in health care settings.
- Information and provincial guidance for primary care providers is available on our [health professional portal](#) for easy access.
- Our partners and the public are being kept up to date through our [website](#), social media, press releases, media interviews and [Q&As](#).

Other Available Resources

- [Ontario Ministry of Health](#)
- [Government of Canada](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention\(CDC\)](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)