

Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Update for Partners

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

February 6, 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 outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and will continue to provide weekly updates as needed as a means to support your information needs, planning, communications and access to resources. Previous updates can be found at www.smdhu.org/coronavirus.

Dr. Charles Gardner
Medical Office of Health

Current Situation (as of 15:00 February 6, 2020)

World

- There are over 28,000 cases of 2019-nCoV worldwide.
- The vast majority of these cases are being reported from China where over 28000 2019-nCoV cases have been confirmed, resulting in 564 deaths.
- One death from 2019-nCoV has been reported outside of China in the Philippines.
- Human infections of 2019-nCoV have also been confirmed in 27 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 5 confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV in Canada – three in Ontario and two in British Columbia.

Ontario

- There are three 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 presumptive or confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV in Simcoe 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 (although there is a Canadian federal government advisory against travel to China at this time – see content under [National](#) below).
- 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

International

- On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared a public health emergency of international concern in relation to the 2019-nCoV outbreak, with the greatest concern being the potential of the virus spreading in countries with weaker health systems.

National

- The Public Health Agency of Canada is working within Canada and with international partners, including the WHO, 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 (GOC) continues to advise all 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](#)
- The GOC is also advising Canadians to leave China if their presence is not essential.
- The GOC has arranged for the repatriation of Canadian citizens in Wuhan, China via airlift starting this week.
 - Passengers will be undergoing multiple layers of screening by Chinese and Canadian authorities prior to boarding flights. Anyone with symptoms will not be permitted to board.
 - The Department of National Defence and public health officials will be on board to monitor for symptoms and isolate any person who displays symptoms during the flight.

- Returning passengers will be under quarantine at the Canadian Forces base in Trenton, Ontario for 14 days.

Provincial

- The Ontario Ministry of Health (OMOH) continues to work with the federal government to support repatriation plans for Canadian citizens who are currently in Wuhan, China.
- 2019-nCoV continues to be a **reportable disease of public health significance** in Ontario, meaning public health is tracking and investigating suspect and confirmed 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.
- The ministry continues to work with health system partners to understand their needs with respect to personal protective equipment and other supplies.
- Local public health units continue to perform case and contact management related to presumptive and confirmed cases in Ontario.
- Primary care guidance documents have been released and will be updated as needed.
- The OMOH is developing simplified one page summaries and guidance documents for other sectors.

SMDHU

- SMDHU continues to work with health sector partners as per our [Infectious Disease Emergency Response Plan](#) to ensure screening and infection prevention control measures in health care settings.
- The SMDHU Health Connection line is responding to an increased number of calls about 2019-nCoV from public and health sector partners.
- New information, resources and provincial guidance for health care providers is available on our [health professional portal](#) for easy access.
- [Screening signs](#) for any sector/location are available in multiple languages.
- Our partners and the public are being kept up to date through the [SMDHU 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)