

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Update for Partners

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

February 11, 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 the novel coronavirus which has now been renamed by the WHO as COVID-19. We 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 11, 2020)

World

- There are over 43,000 cases of COVID-19 worldwide.
- The vast majority of these cases are being reported from China where over 42,000 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed, resulting in over 1000 deaths.
- Two deaths from COVID-19 have been reported outside of China, one in the Philippines and one in Hong Kong.
- Human infections of COVID-19 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 7 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Canada – three in Ontario and four in British Columbia.

Ontario

- There are three confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ontario and 8 cases currently being investigated.
- For up-to-date information on the situation in Ontario see the [Ontario Ministry of Health](#) (OMOH).

Simcoe Muskoka

- There are no presumptive or confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Simcoe Muskoka.

Risk Assessment

- The Public Health Agency of Canada continues to assess the public health risk associated with COVID-19 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 COVID-19 within Ontario remains low at this time.
- Public health risk is continually reassessed as new information becomes available.

Public Health Planning and Response

International

- **NEW** - On February 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) named the virus COVID-19, referred to up to this point as 2019-nCov.
- WHO declared the outbreak of COVID-19 a public health emergency of international concern on January 30, 2020.

National

- **NEW** - The recommendations with regards to people travelling from China have changed:
Travellers from Hubei Province: If you have travelled to Hubei Province in the last 14 days:
 - Limit your contact with others for a total of 14 days from the date that you left Hubei. This means self-isolate and stay at home.
 - Contact your local public health department within 24 hours of arriving in Canada (in Simcoe Muskoka contact SMDHU at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520).Travellers from Mainland China: If you have travelled from mainland China in the last 14 days:
 - Monitor yourself for respiratory symptoms including fever, cough and difficulty breathing.

- Should these respiratory symptoms develop within 14 days after returning to Canada, stay home and seek medical care immediately.
- Call your healthcare provider or your local public health department about symptoms and travel history before seeking medical care.
- 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 COVID-19 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 arranged for the repatriation of Canadian citizens in Wuhan, China via airlift. Returning passengers are under quarantine at the Canadian Forces base in Trenton, Ontario for 14 days.

Provincial

- The Ontario Ministry of Health (OMOH) is updating signage and guidance materials for the health care sector to reflect a change in the case definition (travel history has expanded to include all of mainland China) and will share with partners once available.
- The OMOH is finalizing simplified one page summaries and guidance documents for other sectors.
- Health sector and other system partners are responding in a coordinated manner to detect, respond to and prevent the spread of COVID-19 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.

SMDHU

- Simcoe Muskoka residents who have travelled to Hubei Province in the last 14 days are to contact SMDHU within 24 hours of arriving in Canada at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520.
- 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 continues to respond to calls about COVID-19 from public and health sector partners.
- New and updated 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 [fact sheets](#) (available in multiple languages).

Other Available Resources

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