

# COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Update for Partners - #5

## Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

February 20, 2020

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### ***Message from the Medical Officer of Health***

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) continues to actively monitor the global outbreak of respiratory illness caused by COVID-19 (novel coronavirus). 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](http://www.smdhu.org/coronavirus).

Dr. Charles Gardner  
Medical Office of Health

### ***Current Situation*** (as of 10:00 February 20, 2020)

#### **World**

- Since December 31, 2019, there have been over 75,000 cases of COVID-19 worldwide.
- The vast majority of these cases have been reported from China where over 74,000 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed, resulting in over 2000 deaths.
- Ten deaths from COVID-19 have been reported outside of China, including Hong Kong, Iran, Japan, Philippines, Taiwan and France.
- Human infections of COVID-19 have also been confirmed in 28 countries outside of China, including in other parts of Asia, Europe, North America, Oceania, and Africa.
- For up-to-date information see the [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control website](#).

#### **Canada**

- Since January 25, 2020, there have been 8 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Canada – three in Ontario and five in British Columbia.
- No deaths have occurred in Canada.

- For up-to-date information on the situation in Canada see the [Government of Canada](#) (GOC) website.

## **Ontario**

- There have been 456 individuals tested for COVID-19 resulting in three confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Ontario, one of which is resolved.
- There are currently 17 cases of COVID-19 being investigated in Ontario.
- For up-to-date information on the situation in Ontario see the [Ontario Ministry of Health](#) (OMOH) website.

## **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 risk of spread of COVID-19 as **low** within Canada.
- Public health risk is continually reassessed as new information becomes available.

## ***Public Health Planning and Response***

### **International**

- The World Health Organization (WHO) is working with an international network of statisticians and mathematical modelers to estimate key epidemiologic parameters of COVID-19, such as the incubation period (the time between infection and symptom onset), case fatality ratio (CFR, the proportion of cases that die), and the serial interval (the time between symptom onset of a primary and secondary case). For more information see the [WHO daily situation reports](#).

### **National**

- Public Safety Canada has activated the Government of Canada Operations Centre to coordinate activities across federal departments and agencies to prepare for, prevent, detect and respond to the spread of COVID-19. This includes additional screening measures in all international airports where Public Health officers are supporting Border Services and quarantine officers in screening passengers and providing information to travelers.
- **NEW** – In addition to the recommendations for travelers coming to Canada from Hubei Province and/or Mainland China, there are now recommendations for people returning to Canada who may have been exposed to COVID-19 on specific cruise ships or airlines. All recommendations are listed below:

All travellers from Hubei Province to Canada continue to be at increased risk for COVID-19. If you have travelled to Hubei Province in the last 14 days:

- Stay at home and limit your contact with others for 14 days from the date that you left Hubei; and
- Report to 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).

All travellers from Mainland China (in the last 14 days) are advised to:

- Self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days and contact public health if you feel sick.
- Stay at home, limit your contact with others and monitor for symptoms for 14 days from the last known exposure **if you have been in close contact with a case of COVID-19**;
- If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 in the 14 days after returning from Mainland China, contact your local public health department (in Simcoe Muskoka contact SMDHU at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520), your health care provider by phone.

Travellers who were on the MS Westerdam/ Malaysia flight (on which a passenger tested positive for COVID-19) are advised to:

- Stay at home, limit contact with others and monitor for symptoms for 14 days; and
  - Report to 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).
- There are currently Canadians quarantined on a cruise ship of the coast of Japan. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is assisting Canadians under quarantine in Japan (on the cruise ship, land-based and in hospital).
  - It is expected that 200 Canadians returning to Canada from cruise ships will be quarantined and/or self-isolate (depending on what ship they were on) for 14 days.
  - The Government of Canada (GOC) continues to advise Canadians to:
    - Avoid all non-essential travel to China; and
    - Avoid all travel to Hubei Province in China.
    - Leave China if their presence is not essential.
    - For up to date travel advisories see [Government of Canada Travel Advice and Advisories](#)
  - The PHAC recommends that travelers continue to follow usual health precautions such as washing their hands, avoiding contact with people who are sick, and covering your mouth and nose with your arm when coughing or sneezing. They also advise Canadians to:
    - always tell health care providers about travel history if they become ill after returning to Canada
    - avoid high-risk areas such as farms, live animal markets, and areas where animals may be slaughtered
    - avoid contact with animals (alive or dead);
    - avoid surfaces with animal droppings or secretions on them;
    - avoid eating raw or undercooked animal products; and
    - be aware of the local situation and follow local public health advice.

## Provincial

- Health sector and other system partners continue to respond in a coordinated manner to detect, respond to and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the province.
- To date, none of the evacuees airlifted from Wuhan, China under quarantine in Trenton, Ontario have exhibited symptoms of COVID-19. Quarantine periods end for evacuees who continue to be asymptomatic after 14 days on February 21 and February 25.
- The Ontario Ministry of Health (OMOH) is preparing to support screening primary care and quarantine of repatriated citizens expected to arrive in Cornwall on Thursday, February, 20, 2022.
- The OMOH provided updated signage and guidance materials for the health care sector to reflect the change in the case definition (travel history has expanded to include all of mainland China).
- The OMOH continues to finalize guidance documents for other sectors.

## **SMDHU**

- Since the COVID-19 outbreak began, SMDHU has sent five [HealthFAXs](#) to health provider partners with updated information.
- New updated guidance documents for health care providers are 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).
- The SMDHU Health Connection line continues to respond to calls about COVID-19 from public and health sector partners.
- 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.
- Simcoe Muskoka residents are to contact SMDHU at 705-721-7520 or 1-877-721-7520 if:
  - They travelled to Hubei Province in the last 14 days (within 24 hours of arriving in Canada);
  - They travelled from mainland China and develop symptoms of COVID-19 in the 14 days after returning; or
  - They travelled on the MS Westerdam/Malaysia flight on which a passenger tested positive for COVID-19.

## **Other Available Resources**

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