

2019 Novel Coronavirus (nCoV): Update #3 Revised Case Definition and New Updated Guidance Documents/Resources

Attention: Physicians, Emergency Departments, Infection Control Practitioners, Occupational Health Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Nurse Practitioners, EMS, Designated Officers, Midwives, Family Health Teams, Pharmacies, Central LHIN, NSM LHIN

Date: February 4, 2020

There are currently three confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV in Ontario and one in British Columbia, all with a travel history to Wuhan, Hubei province. There have been no presumptive or confirmed cases in Simcoe Muskoka. From what we know so far, the virus can cause mild, flu-like symptoms as well as severe disease. Current information indicates that the incubation period is 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus. The duration of infectivity for 2019-nCoV infection is currently unknown. This is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) will provide updated information as it becomes available.

Person Under Investigation (PUI) Case Definition as of January 31, 2020:

A person with fever and/or cough or difficulty breathing, **AND** any of the following:

- Travel to Hubei Province (includes Wuhan), China in the 14 days before onset of illness
OR
- Close contact with a confirmed or probable case of 2019-nCoV
OR
- Close contact with a person with acute respiratory illness who has been to Hubei Province (includes Wuhan) within 14 days prior to their illness onset

If you have a patient who meets the PUI definition, please contact the Infectious Diseases Team at 705-721-7520 ext. 8809 during regular business hours (Monday to Friday 8:30 to 4:30) or after hours at 1-888-225-7851. For more information on the NP and throat swabs that are used for testing, please go to <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/laboratory-services/test-information-index/wuhan-novel-coronavirus>

Laboratory testing for public health purposes at this time will only be considered for those who meet the PUI case definition. If clinicians still would like to request testing for patients who do not meet the PUI case definition, they should contact the Public Health Ontario Laboratory directly to discuss further at 416-235-6556 / 1-877-604-4567

SMDHU clinics and staff are not able to swab or perform the test on PUIs. Note that the PUI definition and guidance documents may change as the outbreak progresses. Healthcare providers should obtain a detailed travel history for patients being evaluated with fever and acute respiratory illness.



The Ministry of Health has released a number of new/updated resources and documents for various settings including acute care, primary care, home and community care and long-term care which are listed below:

- [Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) - Guidance Document for Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting – Version 2](#)
- [Ontario Medical Association – Summary Guidance for Primary Care Providers in Community Based Settings](#)
- [Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) – Guidance for Acute Care](#)
- [Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) – Guidance for Home and Community Care Providers](#)
- [2019-nCoV Home/Community Care Screen Algorithm](#)
- [Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) – Guidance for Long-Term Care](#)

These resources and documents are also available through our Health Professional Portal at www.smdhu.org/hpportal.

The Government of Ontario has a dedicated website for Coronavirus which has general information as well provincial PUI statistics which is updated daily. This can be found at the following website address: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>. Additionally, the Ministry of Health has a dedicated website for Coronavirus with all relevant guidance and information. This can be found at the following website address: www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus.

If you have any questions or to report persons under investigation for 2019-nCoV, please contact the Infectious Diseases Team at 705-721-7520 ext. 8809 during regular business hours (Monday to Friday 8:30 to 4:30) or after hours at 1-888-225-7851.