

Use Routine Travel Screening Process at Hospital Triage for Potential Pneumonia Cases from Cluster in Wuhan, China

Attention: Emergency Departments, Infection Control Practitioners, Central LHIN, NSM LHIN

Date: January 10, 2020

China has reported a cluster of cases of pneumonia in the city of Wuhan, centered around a market that sells seafood, chickens, bats, marmots and other wild animals. Cases reportedly have fever, difficulty breathing, and bilateral lung infiltrates on chest x-ray.

As of Sunday January 5th, 2020, 59 cases with onsets between December 12 and 29, 2019 have been reported with seven (12%) people in critical condition and no deaths associated with this cluster. The symptom profile includes fever, breathing difficulty in some cases, and invasive lesions detected on chest X-ray. **There have been no reports of spread from person-to-person or to healthcare workers. Reports indicate that testing has ruled out SARS, MERS, adenovirus, human and avian influenza.**

Yesterday (January 8th, 2020), [Promed](https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=6877694) (<https://promedmail.org/promed-post/?id=6877694>) has reported that a new strain of coronavirus has been genetically sequenced from one patient and also found in others affected in Wuhan. Chinese authorities have not concluded that the strain is the underlying cause of sickness in all the patients who have been isolated in Wuhan.

The World Health Organization has been monitoring the situation and does not recommend travel measures or restrictions at this time.

The Public Health Agency of Canada has stated that the risk to Canadians is low, and has issued a [Travel Health Notice for China](https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories/pneumonia-china) (<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories/pneumonia-china>).

The Ontario Ministry of Health has made the following recommendations for routine travel screening processes at hospital triage:

- **Consider Wuhan, China as part of routine travel screening process at triage**
- If you identify patients who have, within the 14 days prior to the onset of acute respiratory illness (fever and new or worsening cough or shortness of breath), travelled to the city of Wuhan, China:
 - In addition to Routine Practices, place these patients on **Droplet/Contact Precautions**. If possible, also place them in a single room preferably with negative pressure in case aerosol generating procedures are performed. **N95 respirator** is to be worn for aerosol generating procedures.
 - Hospitals are to notify their IPAC departments.
 - IPAC departments can then consult the Infectious Diseases team at the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU)

Currently, the Ontario Ministry of Health has not provided any recommendations for primary care providers or other community-based practitioners. We will provide updates if the situation changes.

If you have any questions, please contact the Infectious Diseases Team at 705-721-7520 ext. 8809.



