

## **2019 Novel Coronavirus (nCoV): Update #4 Revised Case Definition (now includes mainland China), Returning from Mainland China Traveler Recommendations, Personal Protective Equipment Supplies 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 9, 2020

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As outlined by the [Public Health Agency of Canada \(PHAC\) \(https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html\)](https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html), there have been seven confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV (three in Ontario and four in British Columbia) to date. There have been no presumptive or confirmed cases in the Simcoe Muskoka area. 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 and this continues to be an emerging and evolving situation. The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) will provide updated information as it becomes available.

### **1. Person Under Investigation (PUI) Case Definition as of February 7, 2019:**

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

- Travel to **mainland China (excluding Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan)** 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 **mainland China** 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>

**At this time, Laboratory testing for public health purposes will only be considered for those who meet the PUI case definition and includes a nasopharyngeal swab, throat swab and where possible, a lower respiratory tract sample such as sputum.** SMDHU clinics and staff are not able to swab or perform the test on PUIs. Please 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.

### Testing Outside of the PUI Case Definition

If clinicians would still 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. **If testing occurs, the client must be advised to self-isolate at home and not go to work or school until results are confirmed negative. Once the results are confirmed negative (which typically takes up to four days after being received at the public health laboratory), it is recommended that these results be communicated to the client in order for home isolation to be discontinued.**

## 2. Asymptomatic Traveller Recommendations

### a) Travellers from Hubei province in China

- If you have a patient who is asymptomatic and reports that they have recently travelled to Hubei province within the last 14 days, the individual should be advised to **self-isolate for 14 days** from the day they left the Hubei province to come to Canada. Please advise the asymptomatic patient to 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. SMDHU will be actively monitoring these individuals until the isolation period is over.

### b) Travellers from rest of mainland China (excluding Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan)

- If you have a patient who is **asymptomatic**, they do not need to self-isolate, but are advised to **self-monitor for signs and symptoms** for 14 days after leaving mainland China. If they develop symptoms, they should contact the Infectious Diseases Team at the number provided above.

## 3. Personal Protective Equipment – Provincial Supplies

The Ministry of Health has released a Q&A document regarding PPE supplies which is available on our Health Professional Portal at [www.smdhu.org/hpportal](http://www.smdhu.org/hpportal). As identified in the Q/A document, the Ministry of Health is working with health care sector partners to understand inventories across the health care system. At this time, while working with supply chain partners, the Ministry has identified that there is sufficient inventory across the province to respond to the situation. If you have any questions, concerns or feedback regarding PPE, you can email the Ministry [EOClogistics.moh@ontario.ca](mailto:EOClogistics.moh@ontario.ca).

## 4. Resources and Documents

There are a number of resources and documents available through our Health Professional Portal at [www.smdhu.org/hpportal](http://www.smdhu.org/hpportal).

Here is a list of new resources added or updated since the last health fax.

- Updated Case Definition –Version 4 (Update)
- Instructions for people who have been asked to self-isolate (NEW)
- Preventing 2019-nCoV from Spreading to Others in Homes and Communities (NEW)
- Novel Coronavirus 2019-nCoV Guidance for Paramedic Services (NEW)
- Q&As – Personal Protective Equipment Supply – 2019 Novel Coronavirus (NEW)
- [Infection prevention and control for novel coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\): Interim guidance for acute healthcare settings document. \(NEW\)](#)

The Government of Ontario has a dedicated website for Coronavirus which has general information as well as provincial PUI statistics which are 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](http://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.