



ADVISORY

SUBJECT: *Primary Care Office Infection Control for Novel Coronavirus*

Date issued: January 28, 2020

Pages: 2 (with attachment)

To: Physicians, Primary Care Providers, Emergency Departments
and Infection Control Practitioners

From: Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health and CEO

Background

On December 31, 2019, the World Health Organization (WHO) China Country Office was informed of cases of pneumonia with an unknown cause in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. On January 7, Chinese authorities identified the cause of the respiratory illness as novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

The 2019-nCoV belongs to the Coronavirus family, which causes a wide range of illnesses ranging from the common cold to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). The SARS and MERS coronaviruses are known to cause severe illness.¹ The transmissibility of 2019-nCoV is not yet fully understood, although there are early reports of cases in persons with no travel history to China.

Clinical syndromes associated 2019-nCoV include:

- Uncomplicated upper respiratory tract infection
- Mild pneumonia
- Severe pneumonia
- Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS)
- Sepsis
- Septic shock

Physician's offices must be prepared to screen patients for 2019-nCoV prior to their office visit, ideally over the telephone. Please see the attached patient screening tool for use within your office.

Individuals who screen positive for 2019-nCoV should be referred to the local hospital emergency department. Airborne/droplet/contact precautions are recommended. Please report this to WDGPH at 519-822-2715 x4752 (after hours 1-877-884-8653).

Have your office prepared. During influenza season, consider other seasonal circulating respiratory viruses, including influenza, as potential causes of illness. Seasonal respiratory viruses require droplet/contact precautions.

It is recommended to have a sufficient supply of the following in your office:

- Surgical masks and eye protection, or one-piece face shields (face mask with visor)
- Disposable long sleeve gowns
- Disposable gloves
- Alcohol based hand rub (ABHR), with minimum 70% alcohol content

Ensure staff are familiar with the correct sequence for putting on and taking off personal protective equipment.

Cleaning and Disinfection:

- Surfaces and reusable medical equipment must be cleaned and disinfected following patient use
- Ensure surfaces and reusable medical equipment are thoroughly cleaned prior to disinfection
- Use a hard surface disinfectant with a drug identification number (DIN) or a 1:100 dilution of household bleach and water for disinfection of surfaces and non-critical medical equipment
- High-level disinfection and sterilization of semi-critical and critical medical equipment does not need to be altered for patients suspected of having 2019-nCoV

Additional information on 2019-nCoV is available from:

- The World Health Organization (WHO)
- The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
- Public Health Ontario (PHO)

For more information, refer to contact:

Name/Title: Control of Infectious Diseases

Contact: 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4752; after hours 1-877-884-8653

Website: www.wdgpulichealth.ca