
SUBJECT: Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Updated Information
Date issued: January 27, 2020
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To: Physicians, Hospital Emergency Departments, Primary Care Providers
From: Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health and CEO

This is a follow up to the January 23, 2020 Advisory.

Background

On Thursday, January 23, 2020, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre admitted a patient brought in by paramedics who presented with fever and respiratory symptoms. The patient had recent travel history to Wuhan, China, so the patient was immediately put under isolation. On Saturday, January 25, 2020, the Public Health Lab confirmed the case as a presumptive positive case.

What is a Presumptive Positive Case for 2019-nCoV? A person in whom the laboratory screening test for 2019-nCoV was positive from the Public Health Ontario Laboratory is presumptive positive until confirmed by the National Microbiological Laboratory.

Today, Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, confirmed that the wife of the province's first case of Wuhan novel coronavirus has tested positive for the virus at Ontario's public health laboratory. Since arriving in Toronto with her husband, this individual has been in self-isolation.

About the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

The 2019-nCoV belongs to the Coronavirus family, which cause 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.³ The transmissibility of 2019-nCoV is not yet fully understood.

Clinical syndromes associated 2019-nCoV include:

- Uncomplicated URTI
- Mild pneumonia
- Severe pneumonia
- ARDS
- Sepsis
- Septic shock

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What Physician's Offices need to know

Laboratory testing for 2019-nCoV can ONLY be done in hospital and requires prior approval by the PHO Laboratory before submission.

Screen your callers specifically for travel to Wuhan, China **before** arranging to see them.

If callers report fever and acute respiratory symptoms with NO travel to Wuhan, they should be seen in a private room, using droplet/contact precautions. Consider other seasonal circulating respiratory viruses including influenza as potential causes of illness.

For callers with acute respiratory symptoms who have travelled to Wuhan in the last 14 days:

Advise the caller to be seen in the local emergency department.

Please advise the ED that the person is coming for assessment of 2019-nCoV.

Please report this to Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health at 519 822 2715 x 4752.

What Hospitals need to know

Individuals who present with fever, cough or shortness of breath and travel history to Wuhan, China are to be placed in Airborne/Droplet/Contact precautions in a single room (negative pressure if aerosol generating procedures are performed). N95 masks are to be worn for aerosol generating procedures and during the collection of lab specimens. ¹

Case Management/Testing

Laboratory testing for 2019-nCoV may be considered for patients seen at hospital with:¹

- Fever and acute respiratory illness, or with pneumonia
- Presence in Wuhan, China within 14 days prior to symptom onset

Prior to testing, notify the Hospital IPAC department and contact the Ministry of Health (1-866-212-2272) and WDG Public Health (1-800-265-7293 x 4752 or after hours, 1 877-884-8653) about the PUI.¹

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Testing for 2019-nCoV requires prior approval by the PHO Laboratory before submission. For approval, contact PHO Laboratory's Customer Service Centre at 416-235-6556/1-877-604-4567 or the After-Hours Emergency Duty Officer at 416-605-3113

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health will continue to update Health Care Partners as new information becomes available. Additional information is also available from:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) - <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) - <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>
- Public Health Ontario (PHO) - <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus>.

For more information, please contact:

Program WDG Public Health, Control of Infectious Diseases

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

Website: www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca