

The Coronavirus Outbreak

Fast Facts & General Information



You have been provided this handout as an aide to support yourself, other employees and family members as a result of the questions and possible anxiety that has arisen from the recent novel coronavirus outbreak.

What is the novel coronavirus?

On 31 December 2019, WHO was alerted to several cases of pneumonia in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of China. The virus did not match any other known virus. This raised concern because when a virus is new, we do not know how it affects people. One week later, on 7 January, Chinese authorities confirmed that they had identified a new virus. This new virus was temporarily named '2019-nCoV.'¹

Symptoms are close to those of the common flu.

How are coronavirus infections diagnosed?

Coronavirus infections are diagnosed by a health care provider based on symptoms and laboratory tests. In some cases, travel history may be important.²

How is coronavirus treated?

According to Health Canada, currently there are no specific treatments required for most people with coronavirus infection as most people with common coronavirus illness

will recover on their own. Your health care provider may recommend steps you can take to relieve symptoms.

Consult your health care provider as soon as possible if you are concerned about your symptoms or have a travel history to a region where severe coronaviruses are known to occur.

How do I reduce the risk of coronavirus infection?

To reduce your risk of coronavirus infection: clean your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based rub; cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with tissue or flexed elbow; avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms; thoroughly cook meat and eggs and have no unprotected contact with live wild animals.

Need more information or assistance? All calls are completely confidential.

1-800-663-1142 | TTY: 1.888-384-1152 | International (Call Collect): 604-689-1717

Numéro sans frais - en français : 1-866-398-9505

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Is this an international public health emergency?

As of January 23rd, 2020 – no it is not. The WHO has advised that it is too early to declare an international public health emergency. The risk of infection does remain low in Canada as there are currently no confirmed cases at the time of printing.

How is Canada monitoring the situation?

The Public Health Agency of Canada is working with international partners, including the World Health Organization, to actively monitor the situation. Canada's Chief Public Health Officer is in close contact with provincial and territorial Chief Medical Officers of Health to ensure that Canada is prepared to rapidly identify and manage 2019-nCoV should it arrive in Canada.³

Fast Facts

- WHO advised that it is too early to declare an international public health emergency regarding the novel coronavirus, known as 2019-nCoV.
- There are two confirmed cases in Canada as of Jan 27th, 2020.
- Electronic respiratory screening has begun for travelers at all three major Canadian International airports- (Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver) for respiratory symptoms. All travelers from China are receiving a document advising of symptoms and asked to report if symptoms occur in the next 14 days.
- Symptoms include: fever, cough, feeling unwell. Severe cases advance to include difficulty breathing.
- More than 300 cases have been reported in China, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, USA (Washington State).

- Risk in China is high but there has been no human to human transmission outside of China.
- Usually cases have mild symptoms. 1 in 4 of cases have more severe symptoms.
- Source of illness remains unknown.

Where can I get more information on the novel coronavirus?

Here are some helpful links to gather more information.

Health Canada:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada.html>

World Health Organization:

<https://www.who.int/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

References

- 1) World Health Organization. Novel Coronavirus (2019) [cited 2020 Jan 23]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- 2) Government of Canada. Coronavirus Infection (2020)) [cited 2020 Jan 23]. Available from <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus.html>
- 3) Government of Canada. Coronavirus Infection (2020)) [cited 2020 Jan 23]. Available from <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

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