

Ministry of Health Releases Novel Coronavirus Guidance for Primary Care Providers

Update to York Region health care providers as of January 30, 2020

Cases of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) continue to increase in China, with travel-related cases reported around the world including in Toronto and Vancouver. Ontario's Ministry of Health released their **2019-nCoV Guidance for Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting** to assist primary care providers in a community setting. Please see the resources below for a direct link to their document.

York Region Public Health's (YRPH) recommendations for primary care providers:

1. Novel coronavirus is a reportable disease. **Contact YRPH immediately** if you suspect a case of 2019-nCoV at **1-877-464-9675 ext. 73588** (Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) or **905-953-6478** after hours, **before** you call the lab or arrange for testing.
Contact YRPH right away if you:
 - are unsure whether you can safely assess a person,
 - need support with referring to hospital for swabbing, or
 - have questions about case definitions and need for testing a patient
2. **Access and review** the Ministry of Health's guidance document. Please note: Wuhan is the city where 2019-nCoV originated, which is located in the province of Hubei, China.
3. **Review the updated case definition from the Ministry.** Updates to the case definition are likely to be ongoing given the evolving evidence. The current case definition is accessible on the Ministry's health care provider webpage at http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019_guidance.aspx
4. **Be aware of the following guidance** for those individuals who were on the same flight as the confirmed cases in Toronto (China Southern Airlines Flight #CZ311 from Guangzhou, China to Toronto on January 22, 2020):
 - a. Individuals on the flight that are close contacts (i.e., sitting near the case) as well as all flight crew have been and will continue to be contacted by Public Health directly
 - b. For everyone else on the plane:
 - i. If they are well: they are to watch for signs and symptoms of acute respiratory infection.
 - ii. If they have signs and symptoms: they are to call YRPH, self-isolate and we will arrange for clinical assessment and any specimen collection needed.
 - c. If anyone that was on this flight presents to you and you have questions about confirming they were on the plane or about the guidance above, call YRPH.
5. **Please collect the following information** from anyone you believe may meet case definition **for a Person Under Investigation** to help our assessment:
 - a. Travel details (dates and exact location(s) of travel)
 - b. Signs, symptoms, onset and your clinical assessment
 - c. Details for your ill patient of any contact with an individual who has been ill and visited Hubei province
 - d. Full patient demographics (including phone number)
 - e. What infection prevention and control measures have been put in place
 - f. Details of who else lives at home with this person, if possible

If you suspect a case of 2019-nCoV in your clinic, contact YRPH immediately.

Call 1-877-464-9675 ext. 73588 Monday to Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

or **905-953-6478** after hours (before 8:30 a.m. and after 4:30 p.m.

Monday to Friday and 24 hours per day on weekends/holidays).

PUBLIC HEALTH

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York Region

If you have any questions about 2019-nCoV, please visit york.ca/coronavirus or contact York Region Public Health's Control of Infectious Diseases program at **1-877-464-9675 ext. 73588**, Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Resources

Ministry of Health – 2019-nCoV Guidance for Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting
Circulated on January 28, 2020 at the following link:

https://content.oma.org/wp-content/uploads/private/Primary_Care_Guidance_2020-01-28.pdf

The above guidance document will also soon be available at the Ministry of Health's below link:

Ministry of Health – Guidance for Health Care Workers and Health Sector Employers on novel coronavirus associated with Wuhan, China (2019-nCoV)

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019_guidance.aspx

Note: the ministry has indicated documents will be available at this link shortly

PIDAC - Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in All Health Care Settings, 3rd edition

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/bp-rpap-healthcare-settings.pdf?la=en>

For general information on novel coronavirus, including updated case counts:

York Region Public Health

york.ca/coronavirus

Ontario's Ministry of Health – general public information

Ontario.ca/coronavirus

Public Health Ontario – Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus>

For testing information:

PHO Laboratory Wuhan Novel Coronavirus Test Information Sheet

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/laboratory-services/test-information-index/wuhan-novel-coronavirus>

Connect to york.ca/healthprofessionals for insights on current public health topics, up-to-date information and resources from York Region Public Health's programs and services. Visit the **Announcements and Resources** page for our latest communications and to subscribe to our quarterly e-newsletter *Public Health Matters*, which covers topics relevant to today's health care professionals.