

Update on Novel Coronavirus Originating in Wuhan, China

Update to York Region long-term care facilities as of January 30, 2020

The novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) situation continues to evolve with case counts increasing daily, primarily in Wuhan and other affected areas of China. Additional cases have been reported in countries around the world, including in Canada. Human to human transmission has been confirmed, though the extent of transmission is still to be determined.

At this time, the risk of community transmission remains low across Canada. The Public Health Agency of Canada, Ontario's Ministry of Health, public health units and health system and other partners are working closely to monitor, plan and respond to this evolving situation.

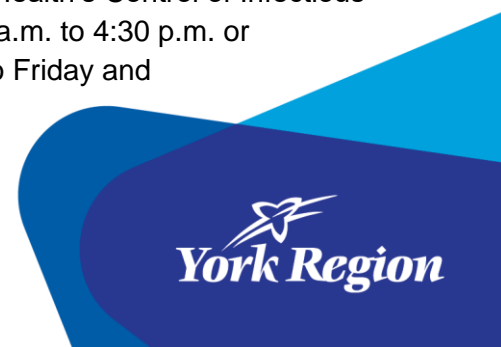
At this time, the Ministry of Health has released specific guidance for hospitals and primary care only. Further sector specific guidance, including for Long Term Care, is anticipated to be forthcoming from the Ministry.

York Region Public Health's Recommendations for Long Term Care Facilities:

1. Regularly check the Ministry's 2019-nCov webpage for health care workers, available at http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019_guidance.aspx, to stay up to date with any emerging guidance for Long Term Care and for relevant case definitions
2. If you have any suspect cases or patients you feel may meet case definition, you are required to call York Region Public Health (YRPH) immediately as novel coronavirus is now a reportable disease. You should:
 - a. Call YRPH immediately 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 8:30 a.m. and after 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday and 24 hours per day on weekends/holidays)
 - b. Separate the individual from other clients and use droplet and contact precautions.
 - c. YRPH can help facilitate clinical assessment and any testing if required. Additional actions and infection prevention and control measures will be required before any further assessment or testing occurs
3. If members of your facility are ill with respiratory symptoms and do not meet case definition, follow your facility's internal infection prevention and control measures for the management of respiratory infections in the same manner as preventing against influenza or other respiratory infections.
4. For visitors to your facility, use your standard infection prevention and control screening procedures for respiratory symptoms. If an individual is ill, as with flu or other diseases, it's recommended that they do not visit a long-term care facility. At this time, individuals who are well do not have restrictions, regardless of their travel history.
5. For more information on infection prevention, including outbreak management resources, visit york.ca/outbreakmanagement and select *Outbreak Management in Facility Settings*.

Contact York Region Public Health

If you have any questions about 2019-nCoV, 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. 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).



Additional Helpful Resources

Ministry of Health and Ministry of Long Term Care – 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

Ministry of Health - 2019-nCoV Guidance for Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting

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

The primary care guidance document will soon be available at the Ministry of Health's above link

For general information on novel coronavirus:

York Region Public Health

york.ca/coronavirus

Public Health Ontario – Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

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

For infection prevention and control information:

York Region Public Health – Infectious Diseases and Outbreak Management > *Outbreak Management in Facility Settings*

york.ca/outbreakmanagement

Ministry of Health - Control of Respiratory Infection Outbreaks in Long-Term Care Homes, 2018

http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/oph_standards/docs/reference/RESP_Infection_ctrl_guide_LTC_2018_en.pdf

World Health Organization - Infection prevention and control during health care when novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection is suspected

<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/330375/WHO-2019-nCoV-IPC-v2020.1-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

PIDAC - Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in All Health Care Settings

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/about/our-organization/external-advisory-committees/pidac-ipc>

PHO - Annex B: Prevention of Transmission of Acute Respiratory Infection in all Health Care Settings

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/about/our-organization/external-advisory-committees/pidac-ipc>

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