



Renfrew County and District Health Unit
"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

Memorandum

Date: January 23, 2020

To: Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Department, Hospital IPAC

From: Dr. Paula Stewart, Acting Medical Officer of Health

Subject: **Wuhan Novel Coronavirus Update and Resources**

Renfrew County and District Health Unit is following the lead of the Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Ontario (PHO, including PIDAC), and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) in responding to Wuhan novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). For web-links describing 2019-nCoV and the general situation, please see web resources at the bottom of this memorandum.

Information regarding 2019-nCoV is continuing to evolve, and Renfrew County and District Health Unit will provide further updates as additional guidance becomes available from provincial sources.

Yesterday, the Ministry of Health announced novel coronavirus as a designated reportable disease. Local Physicians, hospitals and other healthcare facilities will be required to report a suspected or confirmed case of novel coronavirus to Renfrew County and District Health Unit.

Currently, Renfrew County and District Health Unit recommends that health care providers become familiar with PIDAC's "Best Practices for Prevention of Transmission of Acute Respiratory Infection In All Health Care Settings" <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/bp-prevention-transmission-ari.pdf?la=en>. Section C. 1., "Additional Precautions for Acute Respiratory Infection" describes specific infection prevention and control (IPAC) measures when patients arrive in a health care setting with symptoms of an acute respiratory infection (ARI).

In addition to the above guidance, practitioners *in hospital settings* may also benefit from the following resources:

- *PIDAC Best Practices for Prevention, Surveillance and Infection Control Management of Novel Respiratory Infections in All Health Care Settings*
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/bp-novel-respiratory-infections.pdf?la=en>
- *PHOL testing instructions if 2019-nCoV is suspected*
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/laboratory-services/test-information-index/wuhan-novel-coronavirus>
- *Ministry of Health guidance for MERS-CoV*
<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/>

At this time, **if 2019-nCoV is suspected** based on the attached cases definition, it is recommended that the patient be assessed in a hospital setting. Please alert the hospital in advance of the patient's arrival and supply the patient with a surgical mask to be worn in the presence of other people and when entering the hospital. Laboratory workup for respiratory pathogens will be in conjunction with PHO Laboratory and requires telephone communication with PHOL as per their instructions in the above link.

Renfrew County and District Health Unit will also require notification of suspected cases of 2019-CoV so that we can provide guidance for any contacts. Please call Renfrew County and District Health Unit at 613-735-8654 ext. 555, from Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. After hours, on weekends, and on holidays please call 613-732-9926.

Web resources:

Canada, PHAC <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

US CDC https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2Fnovel-coronavirus-2019.html

WHO <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

Thank you

Dr. Paula Stewart, Acting Medical Officer of Health