



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

## Memorandum

**Date:** February 26, 2020  
**To:** Health Care Partners  
**From:** Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health  
**Subject:** **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Medical Advisory**

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Dear Health Care Partners,

As of February 26, 2020 there have been no confirmed cases or for persons under investigation for COVID-19 in Renfrew County and District. The risk remains low.

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) recommends the follow considerations during a risk assessment for COVID-19:

- Maintain a high index of suspicion in returning travellers with fever and/or respiratory symptoms. The settings for international COVID-19 transmission are rapidly changing.
- Ontario's current case definition designates mainland China as the primary risk area. Given outbreaks are being reported in multiple jurisdictions, complete a careful travel history that includes international airports and known contacts with ill persons in international settings.
- Currently, beyond mainland China and Hong Kong, some countries have established local transmission (e.g. Iran, Italy, Japan, Singapore, South Korea). Public Health Agency of Canada does have travel advice for COVID-19 and Johns Hopkins University has created a map tracking reported cases and deaths worldwide. RCDHU recommends checking this map daily as well as Public Health Agency of Canada. Consider testing symptomatic returning travellers from any affected country with local transmission. (See links below)
- If you need to consult with RCDHU to determine testing please call 613-735-8653 extension 555, during office hours, and 613-735-9926 during evenings, weekends and holidays

COVID-19 is reportable under Ontario's public health legislation. RCDHU should be notified

regarding any individuals being tested for COVID-19.

- If you suspect an individual may be infected with COVID-19, report the suspected case to RCDHU by calling 613-735-8653 extension 555, during office hours, and 613-735-9926 during evenings, weekends and holidays.
- Please note that laboratory confirmation is not required to report a suspected COVID-19 case.
- Advise any tested patient to self-isolate and await further instructions from RCDHU.
- Please send patients home with information sheet from Public Health Ontario and a mask for transport home.

URLs to above documents:

Case definition:

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019\\_guidance.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019_guidance.aspx)

Public Health Agency of Canada travel advice: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice.html>

John Hopkins University GIS map:

<https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>

Public Health Ontario fact sheets: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus/public-resources>

Please contact RCDHU at 613-735-8654, extension 555, if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Dr. Robert Cushman

Acting Medical Officer of Health