
MEMO

Date: January 24, 2020

To: Health Care Providers

From: Dr. Brent Roussin Chief Provincial Public Health Officer
Lanette Siragusa, Provincial Lead, Health System Integration & Quality, Chief Nursing Officer, Shared Health

Subject: Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Outbreak, Wuhan, China – Poster Attached

In follow up of the January 17th Health Alert, a novel coronavirus, now referred to as 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019- nCoV) was identified as the cause of the outbreak of pneumonia in Wuhan, China. Cases continue to be identified however **the overall risk to Canadian travelers and to Canada remains low**. Although many initial cases were associated with exposure to a live animal market suggesting a zoonotic source of infection, human to human transmission has since been documented. The origin of the 2019-nCoV remains unknown.

Actions for Health Care Providers

- **Post attached signage** available at: <https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/diseases/coronavirus.html> at entrances and triage/reception areas instructing patients with symptoms of coronavirus infection (e.g., cough, fever, sore throat, runny nose, malaise, headache) to alert healthcare workers
 - Have patient and accompanying people (even if asymptomatic) don a procedure or surgical mask
- Make procedure or surgical masks, tissues and alcohol-based hand rubs available at entrances
- Triage for identification and appropriate placement of patients. Ask symptomatic patients presenting to triage/reception about
 - Travel to Wuhan, China in the 14 days before onset of illness *OR*
 - Close contact with a confirmed or probable case of 2019-nCoV *OR*
 - Close contact with a person with acute respiratory illness who has been to Wuhan, China within 14 days prior to their illness onset *OR*
 - Laboratory exposure in a person who works directly with laboratory biological specimens
- Place patients who screen positive in a designated separate waiting area or space (maintain 2 metre separation); implement Enhanced Droplet Precautions immediately.
https://www.wrha.mb.ca/extranet/ipc/files/manuals/acutecare/Enhanced_Droplet_CP.pdf.
- *Note:* Enhanced Droplet/Contact Precautions *is* Droplet/Contact Precautions plus Airborne Precautions for aerosol- generating medical procedures
 - Do not cohort with other patients
 - Limit visitors to only those who are essential
 - Notify IP&C/designate and Infectious Diseases (ID) on-call 204-787-2071.
 - If clinical presentation and epidemiology is consistent, ID will notify the Medical Officer of Health (204-788-8666); and also Cadham Provincial Laboratory Physician on-call (204-787-2071) for direction on specimen collection, management, and transport. These specimens must be submitted with Suspect 2019-nCoV on the requisition
- Screen accompanying individuals for symptoms of acute respiratory infection. If symptomatic consult ID

Actions for Emergency Response Services Staff

- Use internal service-specific protocols: including Winnipeg and Brandon 911 call screening

Please note direction provided is based on currently available evidence and is subject to change as new information on transmissibility and epidemiology becomes available. Although the spectrum of illness associated with the 2019-nCoV appears to be of lesser severity than the illnesses associated with the SARS or MERS coronaviruses, this outbreak is still evolving. Additional information is required to identify the cause of the outbreak, to fully understand how the disease is transmitted, and the severity of illness it causes in humans.

If you have any questions, please contact the Infection Control Professional/designate for your region/organization/site/area.

Please direct any questions or concerns that do not relate to Infection Prevention and Control or require immediate clinical advice, to PH-EPR@gov.mb.ca.