



# INFORMATION UPDATE

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Members Board of Health
<b>DATE:</b>	January 24, 2020
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) (City Wide)
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	City-Wide
<b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>	Dr. Bart Harvey, MD, PhD, MEd, FRCPC Associate Medical Officer of Health Public Health Services
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	<i>Michelle Bowd on behalf of Dr. Bart Harvey</i>

## Background

Health authorities across the world are currently closely monitoring the ongoing outbreak caused by a novel (new) Coronavirus first identified in patients with pneumonia in Wuhan, China. Additional cases are now being reported in other countries – with the majority of these being individuals who were also infected with the virus in Wuhan, China.

## About the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

This novel Coronavirus is part of the family of viruses that can cause a wide range of illnesses including the common cold, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).

On January 22, 2020, Ontario's Minister of Health declared this novel virus, 2019-nCoV, as a Disease of Public Health Significance, therefore, **the local Medical Officer of Health must be notified immediately of any individuals suspected to be infected with 2019-nCoV.**

To date, no confirmed cases of 2019-nCoV have been reported anywhere in Canada. The Public Health Agency of Canada currently assesses the public health risk associated with 2019-nCoV to be low for Canadians.

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OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

To ensure our preparedness, Hamilton Public Health Services (PHS) has established regular meetings with a core group of staff to monitor the situation and make any needed preparations. This also includes participating in coordinating meetings with many of our Hamilton health partners.

While the risk to staff and the public is low at this time, it is flu season. As such, it's always recommended to **use routine respiratory precautions when interacting with others**. If anyone is ill and has travelled to an [affected area](#), they are being asked to self-isolate at home, and contact the on-call Infectious Disease staff as soon as possible, or the on-call Medical Officer of Health after hours – both can be reached through our main phone line at (905) 546-2424.

PHS will continue to update staff and health care partners as new information becomes available.

For more information about this novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), please visit the resources found below:

- **World Health Organization - Coronavirus**  
<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>
- **Public Health Ontario Novel Coronavirus Test Information Sheet**  
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/laboratory-services/test-information-index/wuhan-novel-coronavirus>
- **Ministry of Health – Newsroom Update January 22, 2020**  
<https://news.ontario.ca/mohltc/en/2020/01/statement-by-deputy-premier-and-minister-of-health-christine-elliott.html>
- **Public Health Ontario Routine Practices and Additional Precautions**  
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/health-topics/infection-prevention-control/routine-practices-additional-precautions>
- **Government of Canada Travel Advice and Advisories**  
<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories/pneumonia-china>
- **Public Health Ontario Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Laboratory Services**  
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/laboratory-services/test-information-index/wuhan-novel-coronavirus>

## **APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED**

Not Applicable.