

Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Saskatchewan Preparedness

2019-nCoV

- A large family of viruses, coronaviruses can cause diseases ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS, 2003) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV, 2015).
- Currently, the risk to Canadians is low.
- Though it is likely that there may be limited human-to-human spread of 2019-nCoV between close contacts (family/household members and caregivers), there has been no indication at this time that it is easily spread beyond those close contacts.
- If you have recently traveled from central China and have developed a cough or fever, contact HealthLine 811 to determine the best course of action.
- If you have traveled from China or have been in close contact with someone who has but do not have symptoms of a cough or fever, you can go to work or to school.

International and National Status

- On December 31, 2019, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission in Hubei province, Central China, identified an outbreak of pneumonia of unknown cause. China has made a determination that a novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is responsible for cases of pneumonia in the Wuhan outbreak.
- Canada has multiple systems in place to prepare for, detect and respond to prevent the spread of serious infectious diseases in Canada. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is actively monitoring the situation in China as well as imported cases in other countries.
- PHAC is in close contact with the World Health Organization and with provincial and territorial counterparts on preparedness and response across Canada.

- As of January 31, 2020, four cases have been confirmed in Canada – three in Ontario and one in BC -- all of which are connected to travel from Wuhan. A confirmed case of 2019-nCoV does not change the national public health response to date, as all necessary protocols and measures are already activated and in place.
- The risk of spread of the virus within Canada remains low at this time. It is an evolving situation, and updates will be provided to the public as information becomes available.

Provincial Status

- Working closely with the provincial medical health officers on preparedness, procedures and reporting, Saskatchewan is prepared to quickly identify and manage cases that should present for care.
- The Ministry of Health has initiated a modified health emergency operations centre to coordinate a system-wide response to share up to date 2019-nCoV risk and transmission information, coordinate necessary health system preparedness, and facilitate communication with health system partners including the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), HealthLine and other agencies and crowns. This includes providing information on personal protection, infection control, testing standards and information to the public and healthcare system audiences.
- Population Health Branch is working with the SHA, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch and Northern Inter Tribal Health Authority to ensure that, if a case a respiratory illness presents and has a relevant travel history, appropriate steps and precautions regarding testing, treatment and isolation will be taken.
- The Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory is well positioned to work with the national public health laboratory to quickly investigate any new/suspected cases. It is anticipated that RRPL will be able to conduct preliminary testing by February 1, 2020.

Information

The Government of Saskatchewan website has a dedicated page for 2019-nCoV:

[Saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus](https://saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus).

The Ministry of Health will be posting information for the public and health providers, including guidance documents, to this site. This site will be updated frequently and all partners and agencies are asked to monitor it for up-to-date information throughout the 2019-nCoV response.

If you have questions about the information on this page, please contact corona2019@health.gov.sk.ca.