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**January 31, 2020**

**From the Office of Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health, Southwestern Public Health**

## **Update: 2019 Novel Coronavirus (n-CoV) for Primary Care Providers**

### **Current Situation**

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#### **Case Counts**

- As of January 30<sup>th</sup>, over 8,000 cases have been reported in China. 68 of these cases have been confirmed in 21 other countries. There are 3 cases in Canada.

### **NEW Guidance Document**

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The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has developed a [NEW Guidance Document for Primary Care Providers](#).

### **Signage, Screening and Testing, Personal Protective Equipment**

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#### **Signage**

Signage should be posted upon entry to the office as well as reception areas and ask all patients to:

- Self-identify if they have symptoms and put on a surgical mask if symptomatic
- Perform hand hygiene
- Cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing/sneezing or cough/sneeze into their arm

The following signs can be downloaded and printed for use in offices to assist with passive screening:

- [Patient Sign \(English\)](#)
- [Visitor Sign \(English\)](#)

#### **Screening**

Primary care settings should conduct screening of all patients before scheduling appointments. Please note that the case definition has expanded to include travel to/from **Hubei Province, China**.

#### **Personal Protective Equipment**

Primary care staff who can safely use an N95 respirator and who are fit-tested, should wear an N95 respirator when assessing patients for n-CoV. Staff who are not able to use an N95 respirator, should follow contact/droplet precautions.

## Testing and Reporting

Primary care providers should contact Public Health to report all suspect cases and to discuss the most appropriate setting for testing.

Report all suspect cases to Public Health using the [ARI Report Form](#).

## Q and A for Primary Care Providers – February 5, 2020 at 12 pm

Southwestern Public Health will host a question and answer session via teleconference for primary care providers on Wednesday, February 5 at 12 noon. You can join by calling 1-855-453-6963 OR 519-433-8981 and using participant code 2679246.

## Additional Information and Resources

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- [Guidance for Health Care Workers and Health Sector Employers on novel coronavirus associated with Wuhan, China \(2019-nCoV\)](#), Ontario Ministry of Health
- [Travel Advice](#), Public Health Agency of Canada
- [PHO: Novel Coronavirus](#)
- [PHAC: Novel Coronavirus](#)
- [CDC: Novel Coronavirus](#)
- [WHO: Novel Coronavirus](#)
- [Check SWPH website for updates](#)

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