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**January 10, 2020**

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

## **Important Information About Undiagnosed Viral Pneumonia in China**

Late last week, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. David Williams, advised public health units across the province about a cluster of cases of undiagnosed viral pneumonia in Wuhan, China.

Health authorities in China issued a statement on December 31, 2019, advising that they had identified 27 cases of respiratory illness associated with a local live seafood market there. Additional cases have since been reported.

The overall risk to Ontarians is considered very low at this time. There has been no evidence of human-to-human transmission and no cases have been reported in health care workers to-date

Staff from Public Health Ontario and the Public Health Agency of Canada continue to monitor the situation. Southwestern Public Health will provide updates as we learn more or additional information becomes available.

For your reference, the Public Health Agency of Canada has issued a Travel Health Notice (<https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/china>) for individuals travelling to Wuhan, China.

Please be advised that an alert has been posted to eCTAS (electronic hospital triage system) on Monday January 6th. Through this alert, hospitals are asked to consider Wuhan, China as part of their routine travel screening process at triage. For those hospitals not on the eCTAS system, you are asked to include Wuhan, China as part of your screening system.

**Dr. Joyce Lock**

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