
Media Release



Novel Coronavirus ***January 30, 2020***

A novel coronavirus was identified as the cause of an outbreak of pneumonia reported in Wuhan (Hubei province), China, on December 31, 2019.

The situation is being closely monitored and the Ministry of Health is taking several steps to ensure the health and safety of Ontarians. This includes adding the novel coronavirus as a designated reportable disease to public health. Now, physicians, hospitals and other care facilities are required to report a suspected or confirmed case of the novel coronavirus to their local medical officer of health.

The overall risk in Timiskaming is low. Staff from the Timiskaming Health Unit continue to actively monitor the situation, along with our colleagues at the Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Ontario, the Public Health Agency of Canada, local hospitals and healthcare providers.

Symptoms of this illness include fever, cough and difficulty breathing. If you have travelled to Hubei province (including Wuhan), China, and develop symptoms of 2019 novel coronavirus infection, avoid contact with others and follow-up with your health care professional. Call ahead before going to any health care facility to make special arrangements to help limit the potential spread of infection.

The Timiskaming Health Unit reminds you, to reduce exposure to and transmission of a range of illnesses, including coronaviruses, you should follow usual health precautions such as:

- washing your hands often
- avoiding contact with people who are sick
- practicing proper cough and sneeze etiquette – into elbow not hands
- stay home if you're sick.

If you are travelling to an area known to have cases of coronavirus, be sure to avoid:

- high-risk areas such as farms, live animal markets and areas where animals may be slaughtered
- contact with animals (alive or dead), including pigs, chickens, ducks and wild birds
- surfaces with animal droppings or secretions on them

For up to date and reliable information regarding novel coronavirus visit the Province of Ontario website www.ontario.ca/coronavirus, which is updated daily at 10:30am. Access to this website can also be found at www.timiskaminghu.com.

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