



Memorandum	
To	All Ontario Region Nursing Stations, Health Centres and Health Centres with Treatment
From	Maurica Maher , MD, MSc, FRCPC Regional Public Health Physician First Nations and Inuit Health Branch: Ontario Region, ISC
Date	January 30, 2020
Regarding	Novel Coronavirus Preparedness

Purpose: To provide guidance in preparedness and management of the novel coronavirus and update on the current situation.

On December 31, 2019, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission in Hubei province, Central China, issued a public statement identifying an outbreak of pneumonia of unknown cause. China has made the determination a novel coronavirus (referred to as 2019-nCoV) is responsible for cases of pneumonia in the Wuhan outbreak.

Update: As of January 30, 2020, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care ([website](#)) has confirmed there have been 2 confirmed cases within Ontario (in people who had travelled to Wuhan, China) and 27 cases are currently under investigation.

Enhanced border measures are in place at international airports in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver to screen for the Coronavirus.

The overall risk of disease spread to Canada and First Nations communities is still considered low.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care document [Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) Guidance for Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting](#) is currently the recommended guideline for management of patients with suspected novel coronavirus infection in primary care settings.

IPAC: PPE and contact, droplet and airborne precautions are encouraged at this time should a patient present **with the criteria outlined** in the Ministry's guidance document. Below is additional information related to routine practices and additional precautions for the Coronavirus. Reviewing the IPAC related documents within the FNIHB-OR Nursing Policies (found on [Onehealth.ca](#)) is recommended for additional recommendations and resources.

The application of routine practices and additional precautions (RPAP) is based on a point-of-care risk assessment (PCRA). Health care workers (HCWs) should use a risk assessment approach before and during each patient interaction to evaluate the likelihood of exposure.



In addition to the consistent application of **Routine Practices**, follow **Contact, Droplet, and Airborne precautions** where available (see guidance document). This includes the appropriate selection and use of personal protective equipment:

- Gloves; AND
- A long-sleeved gown; AND
- Facial protection: Surgical/procedural mask and eye protection, face shield, or surgical/procedural mask with visor attachment
- Primary care providers offering clinical examinations of patients who meet person of interest (PUI) criteria **must use N95 respirators**
- An N95 respirator (plus eye protection) should be used when performing aerosol-generating medical procedures (AGMPs) on a person under investigation (PUI) for 2019-nCoV infection

Hand hygiene should be performed whenever indicated, paying particularly attention to during and after removal of PPE, and after leaving the patient care environment.

Links to other relevant Infection Prevention and Control guidelines:

- [Routine Practices and Additional Precautions for Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Healthcare Settings](#)

Additional Materials: Please see the below and attached resources for further information and support. Based on available information, additional tools and resources to assist CHNs and communities in response to novel coronavirus will be provided as they become available.

For additional information related to novel coronavirus, please see the following resources:

- CD Unit- Coronavirus Preparation Information Sheet Jan 30 2020
- CD Unit- Coronavirus Case Definition (as of most recent release date)
- [FNIHB-OR: Nursing Policies \(IPAC; Hand Hygiene, Routine Practices including Risk Assessment, PPE, Additional Precautions, etc.\)](#) (Available on Onehealth.ca)
- [Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) Guidance for Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting](#)
- [Public Health Ontario: Novel Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\)](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada: 2019 Novel Coronavirus infection \(Wuhan, China\): for health professionals](#)
- <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/mers-cov-preparedness-tools.pdf?la=en>
- [Public Health Ontario: Tools for Preparedness: Triage, screening and patient management for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\) infections in acute care settings](#)