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**Date:** February 12, 2020

**To:** Health Care Providers

**From:** Dr. Brent Roussin,  
Chief Provincial Public Health Officer

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Integration & Quality, Chief Nursing Officer,  
Shared Health

**Subject: Updated Information RE: Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Outbreak**

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Public health officials continue to monitor, gather information, assess risk and respond to the evolving outbreak of 2019-nCoV in China, with spread of cases to other countries including Canada and the United States. **At this time, the overall risk to Canadians and travelers is low.**

**What is new? Actions for health care providers:**

- Access up-to-date, provincial guidance documents on **Manitoba's Coronavirus Website** (<https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/coronavirus/index.html>), including:
  - *Interim Guidance Public Health Measures for Managing 2019-nCoV Cases and Contacts in Community* (includes up-to-date **exposure criteria**, which is subject to change as the outbreak continues to evolve).
  - A *Screening Tool* to assist health care providers in determining if a recent traveler and/or contact of 2019-nCoV should be advised to self-monitor for symptoms, self-isolate and/or be further assessed and tested for 2019-nCoV.
  - Revised (attached) **signage** to be posted at triage/reception areas and front entrances.
  - **Factsheets** and **questions/answers** for the public with information about 2019-nCoV including details around self-monitoring for symptoms and self-isolation.
- Screen and triage patients on presentation to your facility based on symptoms and the following **updated exposure criteria** (refer to the current *Interim Guidance Public Health Measures for Managing 2019-nCoV Cases and Contacts in Community*):
  - Travel to **mainland China** (does NOT include the special administrative regions of Hong Kong or Macau) in the 14 days before onset of illness, **OR**
  - Close contact with a confirmed or probable case of 2019-nCoV, **OR**
  - Close contact with a person with acute respiratory illness who has been to **mainland China** within 14 days prior to their illness onset, **OR**
  - Laboratory exposure in a person who works directly with laboratory biological specimens.
- The following groups of individuals should **self-isolate** and self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days: returning travelers from the province of Hubei; returning travelers from mainland China who have been in contact with ill persons; contacts of probable or confirmed cases; and, laboratory workers who have been exposed (*see Interim Guidance Public Health Measures for Managing 2019-nCoV Cases and Contacts in Community*).

- The following groups of individuals should **self-monitor** for symptoms for 14 days: returning travelers from the rest of mainland China without contact with ill persons, as well as people in close contact with ill returning travellers.
  - Anyone who is self-isolating and/or self-monitoring themselves for symptoms are advised to call Health Links–Info Santé or Public Health for referral to their local urgent care or emergency department for assessment if symptoms develop.

**Health care providers are reminded to:**

- Make procedure or surgical masks, tissues and alcohol-based hand cleanser available at triage/reception areas and front entrances.
- Have symptomatic patients and accompanying people (even if asymptomatic) wear a procedure or surgical mask.
- Place patients who screen positive in a designated separate waiting area or space (maintain 2-metre separation), and immediately:
  - Implement **enhanced droplet precautions**, which includes a gown, gloves, procedure or surgical mask and face/eye protection. *For aerosol-generating medical procedures (AGMPs), an N95 mask is recommended instead of a procedure or surgical mask (see [https://www.wrha.mb.ca/extranet/ipc/files/manuals/acutecare/Enhanced\\_Droplet\\_CP.pdf](https://www.wrha.mb.ca/extranet/ipc/files/manuals/acutecare/Enhanced_Droplet_CP.pdf) for more information).*
  - Do not allow patient to cohort with other patients and limit visitors to only those who are essential.
  - Notify IP&C/designate and Infectious Diseases (ID) on-call at 204-787-2071. If clinical presentation and epidemiology is consistent, ID will notify the Medical Officer of Health (204-788-8666) and Cadham Provincial Laboratory physician on-call (204-787-2071) for direction on specimen collection, management and transport. These specimens must be submitted with Suspect 2019-nCoV on the requisition.
  - Screen accompanying individuals for symptoms of acute respiratory infection.
  - Complete and submit the *Clinical Notification of Reportable Diseases and Conditions* form ([https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/mhsu\\_0013.pdf](https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cdc/protocol/mhsu_0013.pdf)) for symptomatic individuals who meet the exposure criteria. If the case is confirmed, Public Health or IP&C/designate will complete the *2019-nCoV Case Investigation Form* and notify the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Please note that the advice provided is as per currently available evidence and is subject to change as new information becomes available. Although the spectrum of illness associated with 2019-nCoV appears to be of lesser severity than the illnesses associated with the SARS or MERS coronaviruses, this outbreak is still evolving.

Please direct any questions or concerns to [PH-EPR@gov.mb.ca](mailto:PH-EPR@gov.mb.ca).

## Attention All Patients

### Novel coronavirus

Please notify a staff member immediately if you have:

- Travelled to mainland China, including Hubei province (includes Wuhan) within 14 days prior to onset of illness, OR
- Returned from travelling in China AND had close contact with any ill persons during travel
- Come into contact with someone who has or is suspected of having coronavirus, OR
- Come into contact with someone with flu-like symptoms (cough, sneezing, runny nose, fever) who has been to mainland China, including Hubei province (includes Wuhan) within 14 days prior to onset of illness, OR
- Been exposed to laboratory specimens of persons who may have been infected with coronavirus

#### AND

- Have signs/symptoms suggestive of coronavirus
  - Cough
  - Fever
  - Sore throat
  - Runny nose
  - Weakness
  - Headache

## Patients, attention!

### Nouveau Coronavirus

Veillez immédiatement aviser un membre du personnel si...

- vous avez voyagé en Chine continentale, y compris dans la province du Hubei (où Wuhan est située), dans les 14 jours précédant l'apparition de vos malaises; OU
- vous revenez d'un voyage en Chine ET avez été en contact étroit avec des personnes malades lors de vos déplacements; OU
- vous avez été en contact avec une personne infectée par le coronavirus ou soupçonnée de l'être; OU
- vous avez été en contact avec une personne ayant des symptômes de grippe (toux, éternuements, écoulement nasal, fièvre) qui se trouvait en Chine continentale, y compris dans la province du Hubei (où Wuhan est située), dans les 14 jours précédant l'apparition de vos malaises; OU
- vous avez été en présence d'échantillons de laboratoire de personnes qui pourraient avoir été infectées par le coronavirus;

#### ET

- vous avez des signes ou symptômes qui pourraient être ceux du coronavirus :
  - toux;
  - fièvre;
  - mal de gorge;
  - écoulement nasal;
  - faiblesse;
  - mal de tête.