

Yukon Communicable Disease Control
#4 Hospital Road, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 3H8

Memorandum

Date: 2020-02-07 20-03
To: All Health Care Providers
From: Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) & Yukon Communicable Disease Control (YCDC)
Subject: Provider Update #3: 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Dear Colleagues,

As you will be aware, the tally for confirmed 2019-nCoV continues to rise daily and at times dramatically as counts are revised. What remains the same, however, is that cases outside China remain limited and overall public risk to Canadians and Yukoners remains low. Ongoing vigilance is required as Canada and the international community continues to focus public health efforts on containment of this evolving outbreak.

All updates should be reviewed carefully for changes in process as more information on the risks, transmission and management is identified. As per international and national agreement our focus of preparations and clinical care remains containment: including early identification, isolation, contact tracing and home isolation of contacts.

Here are some further key points for recognition, testing and management of cases.

1. As a [reportable disease](#) under the category of “emerging communicable disease”, you need to report suspected cases directly to the CMOH on call at any time or YCDC during business hours.

DCMOH Dr Elliott – 335-0546
CMOH Dr Hanley – 332-1160
YCDC – 667-5080

2. It is critical to obtain a thorough travel history. Clinicians are now asked to screen patients with fever and acute respiratory illness for history of **travel to China** within the last 30 days. If persons were in China in the 14 days prior to symptom onset, notify the CMOH/YCDC.

Currently, a patient will receive further investigations including testing for 2019-nCoV if they have **a fever or cough and potential exposure** within 14 days of symptom onset:

- Travel to Mainland China; **OR**
- Close contact (i.e. lived with or provided direct care) with a probable or confirmed case of 2019-nCoV; **OR**
- Close contact (i.e. lived with or provided direct care) with someone with acute respiratory illness who has recently travelled to an affected area 14 days prior to their illness.

In a health care setting, patients under investigation should be managed with contact and droplet precautions (including eye protection); additional precautions including N95 respirators with eye protection should be used during aerosol-generating procedures.

As the majority of cases are not requiring hospital based care, home isolation and home health monitoring will be an ongoing component of appropriate care.

3. The PHAC will continue to adapt advice for travellers, based on the latest scientific evidence available.

Out of an abundance of caution, health authorities across Canada, including Yukon are recommending that travellers from Hubei province consider limiting social contact for 14 days following their arrival given that cases are still increasing in China, particularly in Hubei. This is consistent with the global public health objective to contain the outbreak in China and prevent further spread to Canada. Travellers returning from the rest of China do not need to self-isolate but are advised to monitor for and report to public health any fever or respiratory symptoms.

4. Testing continues to require notification to the CMOH/DCMOH **and** the SPH Medical Microbiologist on call who in turn will facilitate testing at BCCDC if indicated. Specimen collection recommendations have changed, see Sample Collection for 2019-nCoV Jan 30, 2020.
5. To support clinical management of potential 2019-nCoV cases, please see the following accompanying documents:

- Signs for posting in clinic settings to support infection control and help patients self-identify (English & French)
- Guidance for Clinical Staff in Family Physicians' Offices (Feb 6, 2020)
- Quick Reference Guide for Clinical Staff in Family Physicians' Offices (Feb 6, 2020)
- Updated BCCDC, Sample Collection for 2019-nCoV (Jan 30, 2020)

As per routine these guidance documents will be posted to the guidelines for health professionals available at http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/health_professionals_guidelines.php

A frequently asked questions for the public specific to 2019-nCoV, has been created and is available at: https://yukon.ca/sites/yukon.ca/files/hss/hss-imgs/hss-coronavirus_faq.pdf

Additional provider resources:

Public Agency of Canada

- Novel coronavirus infection (Wuhan, China): Outbreak update, www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html
- 2019 novel coronavirus infection frequently asked questions (FAQ) www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/frequently-asked-questions.html

BC Centre for Disease Control


- Information on novel coronavirus www.bccdc.ca/about/news-stories/stories/2020/information-on-novel-coronavirus

World Health Organization

- Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Elliott or YCDC.

Thank you,



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