

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

Memorandum

Date: 2020-02-14 20-04
To: All Health Care Providers
From: Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) & Yukon Communicable Disease Control (YCDC)
Subject: Provider Update #4: 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear Colleagues,

As we work to keep you up to date with ongoing development and changes, please review updates carefully for changes in process as more information on the risks, transmission and management is identified. Although the risk to Yukon is low, ongoing vigilance is required as Canada and the international community continues to focus public health efforts on containment of this evolving outbreak.

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

1. Current information is suggesting initial presentation of COVID-19 is mild. So persons with a potential exposure history presenting with mild symptoms should be further evaluated for COVID-19.

Currently, a patient will receive further investigations including testing for COVID-19 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 COVID-19; **OR**
- Close contact (i.e. lived with or provided direct care to) with someone with acute respiratory illness who has recently travelled to Mainland China 14 days prior

to their illness.

HCPs must report all patients presenting with signs and symptoms and exposure criteria consistent with COVID-19 infection 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 – 667-8323

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.

2. It is important to remember that most people returning to Yukon from international travel are not at risk of having COVID-19 and should conduct their activities as normal. This includes returning to work, school and engaging fully in activities.

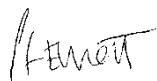
It is important that we as HCP, play an active role correcting misinformation or assumptions about the risk of others having novel coronavirus based on their ethnicity or country of origin, both within our workplace and the community.

3. To support clinical management of potential COVID-19 cases, please see the following accompanying documents:
 - Guidance for Community Nursing Health Centres in Rural Yukon (Feb 13, 2020)
 - Quick Reference Guide for Community Nursing Health Centres in Rural Yukon (Feb 13, 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

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

Thank you,



Catherine Elliott MD MSc FRCPC
Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health for Yukon
304 Jarvis St, 2nd Floor, Whitehorse, YT
Cell. (867) 335-0546
Fax. (867) 667-8349



Lori Strudwick MN RN
Clinical Manager, YCDC
#4 Hospital Rd, Whitehorse, YT
Ph (867) 667 8178
Fx (867) 667 8349