

January 29, 2020

TO: All Saskatchewan Health Care Providers

An outbreak of respiratory illness, first reported in Wuhan, China, has been identified as being caused by a novel coronavirus that has been named 2019-nCoV.

Some people who travelled to Wuhan have been diagnosed with 2019-nCoV in countries other than China, including the United States and Canada; more cases are expected.

It is important that possible cases are reported to the local medical health officer (MHO) immediately to assist with expediting appropriate testing and implementing additional public health measures including isolation and contact tracing.

Pursuant to clause 2(1)(d.1) of *The Disease Control Regulations*, 2019-Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) is being designated as an Emerging Communicable Disease. With this designation, pursuant to section 14.1 of the regulations, immediate reporting to the local MHO is required when identifying:

**Any person with:**

- Cough or fever or an acute respiratory illness;

**AND**

One or more of the following exposure criteria (note, this may expand as the situation evolves; up to date information will be posted at [www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus)):

- Travel to an affected area in the 14 days before onset of symptoms (currently includes the province of Hubei, China but may be subject to change).

**OR**

- Close contact (individuals who provided care for, is a family member of, or who had similar physical contact) with a person diagnosed with 2019-nCoV.

**OR**

- Close contact with a person who has acute respiratory illness who has been to an affected area within 14 days before their onset of illness.

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Please include the following details when reporting to the local MHO<sup>1</sup>:

- patient's name;
- patient's health services number;
- patient's date of birth;
- presenting symptoms;
- exposure information including travel history;
- attending physician;
- date of laboratory test ordered; and
- current disposition of the individual (e.g. self-care at home or admitted for care).

Your cooperation with this surveillance is important and appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local MHO.

Sincerely,



Dr. Saqib Shahab  
Chief Medical Health Officer

cc: Tami Denomie, Executive Director, Population Health Branch  
Rebecca Carter, Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health  
Max Hendricks, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health

<sup>1</sup> If you do not have your local MHO phone number, please contact the number for your area in the following table to be directed appropriately:

<b>Area</b>	<b>Daytime Number (Monday – Friday 8:00 – 4:30)</b>	<b>After Hours and Weekend Number</b>
Regina	306-766-7770	306-766-7773
Saskatoon	306-371-5182	306-655-4620
North	306-446-6900	306-446-6900
South	306-782-2401	306-782-2401