

# HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ALERT

## January 31, 2020



### IMPORTANT UPDATE ABOUT NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)

**To:** Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses  
Hospital Infection Control Departments  
Hospital Emergency Departments  
Primary Care

**At current, the Timiskaming Health Unit is not aware of any probable, presumptive confirmed, confirmed, persons under investigation, or close contacts of cases within our jurisdiction.**

### Reporting Suspect Cases and Testing

The Timiskaming Health Unit is working closely with Provincial and Federal agencies to monitor Novel Coronavirus 2019-nCoV. As of January 22, 2020, the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA) was amended to add "diseases caused by novel coronaviruses, including SARS and MERS" to the list of Diseases of Public Health Significance (DOPHS) under the Designation of Diseases regulation (O. Reg. 135/18) in Ontario. This new DOPHS has also been designated as communicable, providing Medical Officers of Health with powers under the HPPA to ensure appropriate case and contact management. Health care workers must contact their local public health unit to report a confirmed case, presumptive confirmed case, probable case or persons under investigation (PUI). We are requesting immediate notification for all cases and PUI. Our after-hours emergency contact number is 705-647-3033.

The Timiskaming Health Unit will be directing clients to hospital for testing. If you send a patient to hospital for testing, we are requesting that you notify the hospital emergency room in advance, have the patient wear a surgical/procedure mask, and have them travel in a private vehicle if at all possible.

*Testing a PUI for 2019-nCoV?*

**Testing information is found through Public Health Ontario's website:**

[www.publichealthontario.ca/en/laboratory-services/test-information-index/wuhan-novel-coronavirus](http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/laboratory-services/test-information-index/wuhan-novel-coronavirus).

Please note that testing for 2019-nCoV PUIs **requires prior approval** by the PHO Laboratory **before submission and ideally after a physician has seen the patient.**

#### In This Alert

[Reporting Suspect Cases & Testing](#)

[Case Definitions & Guidance for Health Care](#)

[Infection Prevention & Control for Acute Care Settings](#)

[Guidance Document for Primary Care](#)

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local Timiskaming Health Unit:

**Monday to Friday**  
**8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

#### New Liskeard

Tel: (705) 647-4305  
Toll Free: (866) 747-4305  
Fax: (705) 647-5779

#### Kirkland Lake

Tel: (705) 567-9355  
Toll Free: (866) 967-9355  
Fax: (705) 567-5476

#### After-Hours or Weekend On-Call Number

(705) 647-3033

[www.timiskaminghu.com](http://www.timiskaminghu.com)

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### 2019-nCoV Case Definitions & Guidance

Case definitions and guidance documents can be found via the following sites:

The Ministry of Health: Guidance for Health Care Workers and Health Sector Employers on novel coronavirus associated with Wuhan, China (2019-nCoV) which can be found there [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019\\_guidance.aspx](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019_guidance.aspx)  
The Ontario College of Family Physicians <https://www.ontariofamilyphysicians.ca/tools-resources/timely-trending/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

### Infection Prevention and Control for Acute Care Settings

The ministry has developed guidance documents and resources for the healthcare sector when dealing with 2019-nCoV. To ensure you are always using the most up to date resources, we recommend you obtain them from their website:

<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/>.

### Guidance for Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting

The Ministry of Health has published updated [Guidance for Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting](#), providing information on:

- What you need to know
- Screening and Triage
- Occupational Health & Safety and Infection Prevention & Control Advice for Primary Care Settings
- Current information about 2019-nCoV
- General Advice to Primary Care Providers

### Other Information

The most up to date information on that status of 2019-nCoV in Ontario can always be found at [Ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://Ontario.ca/coronavirus).

Clients who phone with questions can be directed to the health unit where they can speak to a nurse.

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