



Region of Waterloo  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Weekly Stakeholder Bulletin #1

## Novel Coronavirus

**Date issued:** February 10, 2020

**Purpose of bulletin:** The purpose of this bulletin is to keep local stakeholders informed of the evolving international novel coronavirus situation and its implications for Waterloo Region.

**Key changes since last bulletin:** For future bulletins, this section will highlight key changes since the last bulletin.

### Key messages:

- Returning travellers from Hubei province, China (including Wuhan) are asked to self-isolate for a total of 14 days from the date they left Hubei. In Waterloo Region, returning travellers are advised to call Region of Waterloo Public Health at 519-575-4400 within 24 hours of their return to Canada.
- Travelers to mainland China other than Hubei Province are asked to watch for signs and symptoms which may develop up to 14 days from the date they left China.
- Individuals experiencing symptoms within 14 days of their return should avoid contact with others (e.g., stay home from school, work, or child care; avoid group activities, public places, taking public transit; and refrain from having visitors), and contact their healthcare provider and Region of Waterloo Public Health at [519-575-4400](tel:519-575-4400). If possible, they should call ahead before going to a medical office or an emergency department to allow health care staff to manage your case appropriately.
- The Canadian government is in the process of repatriating Canadian citizens from Wuhan (Hubei) China to the Canadian Forces Base (CFB) in Trenton, Ontario. The repatriates will remain at the base and be monitored for symptoms



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for 14 days before returning to their home areas in Canada. Once they are released from the base, they will not require further monitoring or isolation in their home areas in Canada.

- At this time there are no confirmed cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus in Waterloo Region.
- The risk to local residents and all Canadians remains low.
- It is currently cold and flu season and residents will be sick.
- Residents should continue to protect themselves and the people around them by washing their hands often, avoiding close contact with people who are sick, etc. More details below.
- Region of Waterloo Public Health continues to work closely with local hospitals, health care partners, the Ministry of Health, Public Health Ontario, and national partners to monitor and detect any cases of 2019 Novel Coronavirus.
- Prior to travelling, check the Public Health Agency of Canada – Travel Advice and Advisories website (<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories>) for up-to-date travel information.
- Flights from areas outside of Wuhan (Hubei), though infrequent, are still available and will land at Canadian International airports, where travelers will be screened for symptoms.
- Public Health always recommends the following steps to help prevent the spread of germs and viruses:
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
  - Stay home when you are sick.
  - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
  - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- We continue to encourage people to connect with trusted sources for Novel Coronavirus information including the following websites:
  - Region of Waterloo Public Health webpage:  
<https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/health-and-wellness/2019-novel-coronavirus.aspx>



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- Ontario Ministry of Health webpage: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov><https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/2019Novelcoronavirus>
- Public Health Agency of Canada webpage: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

**Who to contact if you have questions or need additional information:** Please email [publichealth@regionofwaterloo.ca](mailto:publichealth@regionofwaterloo.ca). This will ensure your questions are sent to an inbox that will be regularly monitored, and referred to the appropriate staff for follow-up.