



Region of Waterloo
PUBLIC HEALTH AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES

Weekly Stakeholder Bulletin #2

Novel Coronavirus

Date issued: February 18, 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 updates:

- The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation continues to evolve internationally.
- Countries continue to focus on containment strategies to manage the spread of the virus (early identification of symptoms and testing; isolation for specific risk situations).
- At this time there are no confirmed cases in Waterloo Region.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) announced the official name Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
 - The name change was decided on by the WHO, for a number of reasons including the importance of the name not referring to a geographical location, an animal or an individual or group of people. The name was also chosen so that it would be easily pronounced and related to the illness.
 - Locally and in Canada – we will continue to use both “Novel Coronavirus” and COVID-19 in our communications. We believe that many people are already familiar with the original name and at this time we are not wanting to add confusion.
- The first cohort of Canadians who arrived at CFB Trenton will complete their 14-day quarantine period on Friday, February 21, 2020.
- The Government of Canada has chartered a plane to repatriate Canadians on board the Diamond Princess cruise ship docked in Japan. The plane will land at CFB Trenton where passengers will be taken to the NAV Canada Training Institute in Cornwall to undergo a further 14-day period of quarantine.



Region of Waterloo
PUBLIC HEALTH AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES

Weekly Stakeholder Bulletin #2

- Hubei province has changed their reporting criteria for cases and it should be noted that this is resulting in an increase in the number of cases for China.
- The Ministry of Health has created Sector Specific Guidance documents. Updated guidance documents for Acute Care, Paramedics, Primary Care, Home & Community Care and Long Term Care settings have been added to the ministry [website](#)

Returning Travellers:

- 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.**
- Travellers to mainland China, other than Hubei province are asked to watch for signs and symptoms which may develop up to 14 days after departure from China. They are being asked to avoid large crowds and places where it would be difficult to self-isolate if symptoms occur.
- If travellers experience symptoms within 14 days, they are asked to follow-up with a health care provider and Region of Waterloo Public Health at 519-575-4400. If possible, call ahead before going to a medical office or an emergency department to allow health care staff to manage your case appropriately. Travellers with symptoms are also asked to avoid contact with others (e.g. stay home from school, work or child care; avoid group activities, public places or taking public transit; and refrain from having visitors).

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.



Region of Waterloo
PUBLIC HEALTH AND
EMERGENCY SERVICES

Weekly Stakeholder Bulletin #2

Avoid misinformation:

- Region of Waterloo Public Health continues to provide up-to-date and evidence-based information on our website so that you and your audiences have the information you need to make informed decisions about your health.

Recommended resources:

- Region of Waterloo Public Health webpage: regionofwaterloo.ca/2019NovelCoronavirus
- Ontario Ministry of Health webpage: ontario.ca/coronavirus
- Public Health Agency of Canada webpage: canada.ca/coronavirus

Who to contact if you have questions or need additional information:

Please email 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.

Previous editions of the weekly bulletin are available upon request.