

## MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS **ALERT**

January 24, 2020

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of Potential Novel Corona-  
virus

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[https://www.interiorhealth.ca/  
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### Guidance for Assessment of Potential Novel Coronavirus

Interior Health and its partners continue to monitor the evolving coronavirus situation (named 2019-nCoV) which originated in the Wuhan area, Hubei province, in China. As of 16:00 today (January 24, 2020) more than 1000 confirmed cases and 41 deaths have been reported.

Clients who present to your practice with respiratory illness should be assessed for possible novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV).

Criteria for a possible case of 2019-nCoV are:

#### Clinical signs:

- Fever (greater than or equal to 38 degrees C) and symptoms of lower respiratory illness (eg. cough and/or shortness of breath)

#### Risk factors:

- Travel to Wuhan, China (Hubei Province) or other area with known transmission of 2019-nCoV within the past 14 days
- Close contact with someone known to have a 2019-nCoV infection within 14 days

If a symptomatic client **with** the above travel/ contact risk factors presents:

- Provide the client a mask,
- Initiate contact and droplet precautions
- Place client in a single patient room away from other clients as possible.
- Notify the Communicable Disease (CD) Unit at 1-866-778-7736 (M-F 8:30-16:30) or on call Medical Health Officer (MHO) 1-866-457-5648

The CD Unit or on-call MHO will work with you and your client to arrange testing if deemed necessary and work with your local Emergency Department or Hospital if there is a need for a transfer.

#### Client Phone Calls:

If a client contacts your practice and you assess them to meet the clinical and risk factor criteria above please collect their contact information, ask them to self isolate, tell them to expect a call from public health and notify the Communicable Disease (CD) Unit at 1-866-778-7736 (M-F 8:30-16:30) or on call Medical Health Officer (MHO) 1-866-457-5648.

Updates are available on the BCCDC web site here:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/data-reports/communicable-diseases/emerging-respiratory-virus-updates>