

## MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS **ALERT**

**February 6, 2020**

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Update: Novel  
Coronavirus (2019-  
nCoV) Screening and  
Testing

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MHO UPDATES, go to:

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**Medical Health  
Officers:**

**Dr. Kamran  
Golmohammadi**

**Dr. Silvina Mema**

**Dr. Sue Pollock**

**Dr. Karin Goodison**

**CONTACT INFO:**

**Duty MHO line  
(24/7)**

**1-866-457-5648**

**\*\*\*This MHO alert supersedes the alert issued on January 27. Please use this guidance instead\*\*\***

Interior Health and its partners continue to monitor the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak in China.

For updates on the most recent count of cases please refer to the [BC Center for Disease Control Information on Novel Coronavirus website](#) or the [World Health Organization Novel Coronavirus situation reports](#).

Risk to Interior Health residents continues to be considered low, however we request that our colleagues in community remain vigilant for suspected cases of 2019-nCoV.

Please note that the situation is evolving rapidly and the criteria for screening and testing may change.

If your patient presents with:

- Travel to the **Hubei Province (where Wuhan City is located)** within 14 days of symptom onset, **OR** Contact with a case of 2019-nCoV within 14 days of illness onset, **AND**
- Acute respiratory illness (eg. New or worsening cough) **OR**
- Fever  $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$

**Notify the Communicable Disease (CD) Unit at 1-866-778-7736 (M-F 8:30-16:30)  
OR the on-call Medical Health Officer (MHO) 1-866-457-5648 (after hours and weekends)**

The MHO may request that you collect the following specimens:

- A nasopharyngeal swab (red top viral transport medium); **AND**
- An oropharyngeal swab (blue top viral transport medium)

Nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs and throat swabs can be performed using contact and droplet precautions with surgical mask and eye protection, and do not require the use of an N95 respirator. N95 respirators and additional precautions should be used during aerosol-generating procedures (i.e. sputum collection).



If a symptomatic client with the above travel/contact risk factors presents to your clinic promptly provide the client a mask, place client in a single patient room, and initiate contact and droplet precautions (including surgical mask and eye protection). After testing, please direct the client to self-isolate at home. The CD Unit or on-call MHO will work with you and your client to arrange testing if deemed necessary.