

Public health management of cases and contacts of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in Ontario

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Ministry of Health

Health System Emergency Management Branch

1075 Bay Street, Suite 810

Toronto, Ontario

Canada, M5S 2B1

416-212-8022 (local); 1-866-212-2272 (long distance)

Emergencymanagement.moh@ontario.ca

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Public health management of cases and contacts of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

This document provides information for the public health sector in Ontario. The Ministry of Health has developed this document with contributions from [Public Health Ontario \(PHO\)](#) based on current available scientific evidence and expert opinion. This document is subject to change as new information about the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) initially identified in Wuhan, China, is identified and understood.

Nothing in this document is intended to restrict or affect the discretion of local medical officers of health to exercise their statutory powers under the [Health Protection and Promotion Act](#). This document is intended for information and guidance purposes only.

Purpose

The Ministry of Health (ministry) has developed this guidance for public health units (PHUs) to use to assess and manage persons under investigation (PUI) and conduct case and contact management activities for 2019-nCoV.

This document outlines a strategy to contain the spread of 2019-nCoV in Ontario. PHUs should use this document when the outbreak management objective is containment and there are low levels of importation or community transmission.

PHUs should conduct case and contact management for all probable, presumptive confirmed¹ and confirmed 2019-nCoV cases². Case definitions are available in the ministry's [Guidance for Health Care Workers and Health Sector Employers](#) posted on the [2019-nCoV website](#).

Public Health Ontario (PHO) Laboratory conducts testing and shares laboratory results with the requesting health care provider and the relevant PHU; significant results are also shared with the ministry. The identification of a probable case or presumptive confirmed case triggers a number of actions, including activation of the Ministry's Emergency Operations Centre (MEOC)³, at which PHO and relevant ministry divisions are represented. Once activated, the MEOC is the primary source of information, support and provincial coordination of health system response activities. The MEOC can be accessed through the Health Care Provider Hotline at 1-866-212-2272 on a 24/7 basis. Shortly after activation, the MEOC holds a Health Sector Coordination Teleconference with all relevant stakeholders to discuss next steps, including implementation of the guidance in this document. Once activated, the MEOC will continue to provide Health Sector Coordination for all new cases in Ontario.

¹ A presumptive confirmed case is defined as an individual with a positive polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test conducted by [Public Health Ontario \(PHO\)](#). It is anticipated that the [Public Health Agency of Canada's \(PHAC's\) National Microbiology Laboratory](#) will confirm 2019-nCoV cases in Ontario.

² Public health units may apply some of the public health actions outlined in this document to a person under investigation (PUI) who is a close contact of a presumptive confirmed, confirmed or probable case (as opposed to a PUI whose exposure is travel to an affected area) – especially when there is a high index of clinical suspicion. Public health units can work with the Ministry Emergency Operations Centre (MEOC) to decide what types of case and contact management activities to conduct for PUIs.

³ For more information on the MEOC, please view the [Ministry of Health Emergency Response Plan](#).

Investigation Tools

PHUs can use the following tools to conduct case and contact management activities:

- [Appendix 1: Ontario's Severe Acute Respiratory Infection \(SARI\) Case Report Form](#) – PHUs can use this form to collect information from probable, presumptive confirmed and confirmed cases or their proxies. It is based on the Public Health Agency of Canada's (PHAC) [SARI Case Report Form](#). PHUs should also enter all cases in the integrated public health information system (iPHIS), as per iPHIS entry guidelines.
- [Appendix 2: Routine Activities Prompt Worksheet for Cases](#) – PHUs can use this sample worksheet to identify potential exposures that may have led to disease acquisition in a case. Along with the SARI Case Report Form in Appendix 1, this worksheet can also be used to interview the case or their proxy to collect detailed information and to investigate potential exposures in the 14 days before onset of symptoms.
- [Appendix 3: Daily Clinical Update Form for a Case Managed in an Acute Care Setting](#) and [Appendix 4: Daily Clinical Update Form for a Case Managed in a Household Setting](#) – PHUs can use these sample forms to monitor the health status of a probable, presumptive confirmed or confirmed case for the duration of their illness and infectious period (which continues until documentation of two negative tests by PHO on respiratory specimens⁴ collected at least 24 hours apart), or until a probable case no longer meets the case definition (i.e., as a result of additional laboratory testing).
- [Appendix 5: Close Contact Tracing Worksheet](#) – PHUs can use this sample worksheet to identify close contacts of a probable, presumptive confirmed or confirmed case.
- [Appendix 6: Daily Contact Clinical Update Form](#) – PHUs can use this sample form to follow-up and monitor close contacts.

Assessment of Person Under Investigation (PUI)

Ontario hospitals and the broader provincial healthcare system, including primary and community care, have been alerted to this outbreak associated with 2019-nCoV and advised to assess individuals presenting with acute respiratory symptoms for their travel history and other potential exposures to the virus. Clinicians who identify PUIs and are requesting testing for 2019-nCoV should report the PUI to their [local public health unit](#). Requests for testing need to be discussed with PHO [Laboratory](#). In the hospital setting,

⁴ Where feasible, the collection of two respiratory specimens at the time of each testing (e.g. nasopharyngeal plus throat swab) is currently recommended.

clinicians should alert their hospital's Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) department to ensure appropriate management of the individual. Health care providers in the community should discuss with their local PHU how to facilitate clinical evaluation and testing for PUIs depending on their level of illness and exposure history.

Public health involvement with PUIs may include providing guidance on whether the individual is a PUI, and if so, where testing can be safely arranged. PHUs should provide direction to the PUI on self-isolation to prevent potential transmission. A single negative result for 2019-nCoV by PHO is sufficient for ruling out a PUI. PHUs should enter PUIs into iPHIS; however, there is no requirement to complete a full SARI case report form for a PUI, or to initiate contact tracing, unless otherwise advised by the MEOC.

Reporting of Cases to the Public Health Agency of Canada

Within 24 hours of the identification of a probable or presumptive confirmed case in Ontario, the ministry will report to PHAC as part of national notifiable disease reporting requirements, as well as in accordance with the International Health Regulations.

To meet this timeline, the PHU gathers relevant case information using the SARI form (see Appendix 1 to view Ontario's SARI case report form) in as much detail as possible and as quickly as possible. This form should be used even if the case does not meet the clinical criteria for SARI. Completing all of the fields in the SARI Case Report Form may take some time as they are based on information gathered by PHUs over the course of the case and contact investigation. However, at a minimum, the PHU must submit the following information to the MEOC⁵ as soon as possible to enable provincial reporting to PHAC:

- reporting PHU
- outbreak or cluster related within Ontario
- gender
- age
- date of symptom onset
- symptoms
- whether hospitalized/date of hospitalization
- whether in ICU/ date of ICU admission
- if deceased/ date of death
- laboratory test method and result (when or if available)
- travel history (i.e., dates and locations (city/country), travel conveyance used)

⁵ The MEOC provides the PHU with instructions on the reporting process at the initial Health Sector Coordination Teleconference.

- other possible exposures (e.g., ill contact, live animal market or other animal contact, etc.)

PHUs should also submit the SARI case report form to PHO via iPHIS referral. PHUs should also enter probable, presumptive confirmed and confirmed cases into iPHIS as per the instructions provided in the iPHIS Special Notice re: iPHIS changes related to the addition of novel coronaviruses to the list of Diseases of Public Health Significance, and the accompanying Quick Reference Summary.

Case and Contact Management

The identification of a probable, presumptive confirmed or confirmed case triggers an investigation by the PHU in order to assess potential exposures within the 14 days prior to symptom onset and to evaluate potential transmission among close contacts. These investigation results assist in preventing further transmission and improve knowledge about the epidemiology of 2019-nCoV (e.g., provide information about duration and type of exposures that facilitate virus transmission).

Case Management

Recommendations to support PHUs to manage a probable, presumptive confirmed or confirmed case are outlined below.

Case follow-up and monitoring

- The PHU interviews the case and/or household contacts/ family members (i.e., if the case is too ill to be interviewed, has died, or is a child) as soon as possible to collect the reporting information outlined above (see [Reporting to the Public Health Agency of Canada](#)) and identify close contacts (see [Contact Management](#)).
 - Most PHU investigators conduct these interviews by telephone.
 - For interviews conducted in person, the investigator follows Routine Practices and Contact, Droplet and Airborne Precautions when entering the case's environment (see the ministry's [Guidance for Health Care Workers and Health Sector Employers](#) for further information on occupational health & safety (OHS)⁶ and infection IPAC measures).
- The PHU interviews the case to identify potential exposures that may have led to disease acquisition (see [Appendix 2](#) for a sample template).
- The PHU monitors the presumptive confirmed and confirmed case's health status on a daily basis for the duration of illness (whether the case is in an acute care setting or household setting) and until two respiratory specimens⁷ collected at least 24 hours apart are negative by PHO (see [Appendix 3](#) and [Appendix 4](#) for

⁶ Further information on legislated occupational health and safety requirements may be found on the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development's [Health and Safety](#) website.

⁷ Where feasible, the collection of two respiratory specimens at the time of each testing (e.g. nasopharyngeal plus throat swab) is currently recommended.

sample templates to assist with this monitoring). The PHU monitors probable case's health status on a daily basis for the duration of illness.

- Cases that are hospitalized and no longer require hospital-level clinical care but have not had two negative respiratory specimens may be discharged home under self-isolation and PHU active monitoring until two respiratory specimens collected at least 24 hours apart are negative by PHO. Cases discharged home should follow advice below on preventing transmission in household settings.

Public health advice in household settings

The PHU should provide the following advice to a case in a household setting:

- The case should self-isolate while ill and not go to work, school, or other public areas until their symptoms are resolving and until two respiratory specimens⁸ collected at least 24 hours apart are negative by PHO. This includes not using public transportation or taxis and limiting visitors.
- If the case must go out for a medical appointment or urgent care, they should wear a mask (surgical/ procedure mask) over their nose and mouth, and travel in a private vehicle if at all possible.
- The case or family members should alert all health care workers about the case's status (exposure and illness) so that appropriate OHS & IPAC measures can be taken (including notifying Ambulance Communication Centres that have a direct link to paramedic services, should an ambulance be called to transport the case).
- The case and household members should reduce opportunities for disease transmission within the household setting:
 - The case should be separated from others in the household environment to the greatest extent possible (e.g., remain/ sleep in a separate room and have a dedicated bathroom; if these steps are not possible, maintain a distance of two metres from others).
 - If the case cannot be separated from others, then they should wear a mask (if tolerated).
 - Shared rooms or areas (e.g., kitchen, bathroom, and the case's room) should be well ventilated (i.e., keep window open if possible and tolerated).
- The case should be instructed about respiratory etiquette:
 - The case should have tissues beside or with them to be able to cover coughs, sneezes or to wipe or blow their nose. If a tissue is not immediately available when coughing or sneezing, the case should cover their mouth and nose with the sleeve of their clothing to reduce droplets spread into the air.
 - The case should cover their mouth and nose with tissues or wear a mask while receiving care (e.g., receiving medications, dressing, bathing, toileting, repositioning in bed).

⁸ Where feasible, the collection of two respiratory specimens at the time of each testing (e.g. nasopharyngeal plus throat swab) is currently recommended.

- The case should discard tissues/ disposable materials including masks in a plastic-lined, covered garbage can.
- The case should perform hand hygiene. Alcohol-based hand rub/ sanitizer (ABHR) is preferred however, plain soap and water is acceptable if ABHR is not available. If hands are visibly soiled, clean them with plain soap and water immediately after contamination with respiratory secretions and/ or after disposing of used tissues or masks.
- The case should use a paper towel to dry hands. If that isn't an option, the case should use a dedicated cloth towel that is kept separate from everyone else's towels.
- The case should limit contact with household members as much as possible, recognizing that care may need to be provided by household members. Caregiving activities may include washing the case's face or hands and assisting with bathing, toileting, dressing, feeding or offering liquids, and taking medications.
- The case may need to make arrangements to remain isolated, including having discussions with their employer, making alternate arrangements to support children/ other dependents and taking steps to ensure an adequate supply of groceries and other necessities.

The PHU should provide the following advice to household caregivers and others in the case's immediate household environment:

- The only people in the household should be those who are essential for providing care:
 - People who are not taking care of the case should make arrangements to live somewhere else until the case no longer needs to self-isolate. If this is not possible, they should stay in another room or be separated from the person as much as possible.
- Household caregivers who have been living in the same household since the case became symptomatic (and who have already had an exposure risk) may decide to use gloves, a mask and eye protection (goggles or a face shield) to reduce their risk of acquiring the virus while providing care and when in the same room as the case.
- A new caregiver coming into the household and who hasn't had previous contact with the case while the case was symptomatic (and therefore has not had a previous exposure) should wear gloves, a mask and eye protection while providing care to the case and when in the same room as the case.
- When outside of the case's room, caregivers must remove personal protective equipment (PPE) in the appropriate sequence to reduce the risk of contamination of hands or face through inadvertent contact with contaminated PPE:
 - After gloves and the gown are removed, perform hand hygiene. Alcohol-based hand rub/ sanitizer (ABHR) is preferred however, plain soap and water is acceptable if ABHR is not available. If hands are visibly soiled, clean them with plain soap and water.
 - Remove eye protection. Then remove the mask by holding only onto the ear loops or ties (do not touch the front of the mask that was over the

face) and dispose of the mask immediately into a waste container or disposable bag. Clean eye protection with a cleaner/disinfectant as per manufacturer's instructions or place into a container for later cleaning/disinfection.

- Perform hand hygiene again immediately after removing PPE. If hands are visibly dirty or have come into contact with respiratory secretions or other body fluids, clean them with plain soap and water to physically remove the soil.
- Caregivers should avoid other types of possible exposure to the case or contaminated items. For example, they should avoid sharing toothbrushes, cigarettes, eating utensils, drinks, towels, washcloths or bed linen. Dishes and eating utensils should be cleaned with dish soap and water after use. Use of a dishwasher with a drying cycle also provides a sufficient level of cleaning.
- High-touch areas such as toilets, sink tap handles, doorknobs and bedside tables should be cleaned daily using regular household cleaners and more often if visibly soiled. The contact's clothes and bedclothes can be cleaned using regular laundry soap and water and do not require separation from other household laundry.
- All waste generated can be bagged in a regular plastic bag and disposed of in regular household waste.
- Household contacts should monitor themselves for any signs of illness. They should isolate themselves immediately if signs of a respiratory infection or fever develop and notify their health care worker and PHU.

The ministry has developed a fact sheet on [Preventing 2019-nCoV from Spreading to Others in Homes and Communities](#) that PHUs can use to provide guidance and information for probable cases, presumptive confirmed cases and confirmed cases who are being cared for in household settings.

Occupational health & safety and infection prevention & control advice for acute care settings

- If the PHU refers the probable, presumptive confirmed or confirmed case to an acute care setting for follow-up, the PHU should provide a procedure mask for the case to wear when in public and during transport (in a private vehicle or ambulance). The PHU should notify the acute care setting of the case's impending arrival and advise/remind the organization that at this time, in addition to Routine Practices, cases are to be placed on **Droplet/Contact/Airborne Precautions** preferably in an airborne infection isolation room. For now, fit tested N95 respirators and eye protection are to be worn for direct patient care.
- Acute care settings should consult the ministry's [website on 2019-nCoV](#).

Contact Management

PHUs and acute care settings should conduct active monitoring of close contacts for 14 days after last exposure to a probable, presumptive confirmed, or confirmed case. Close contacts of cases should self-isolate for 14 days after last exposure to the case and self-monitor for signs and symptoms in addition to the active monitoring conducted by PHUs. Contact management may involve collaboration between PHUs and acute care settings:

- PHUs actively monitor close contacts in the community. This includes close contacts who were exposed in an acute care setting or other health care setting (e.g., primary health care setting, urgent care clinic) but live in the community. The responsibility to actively monitor close contacts that were exposed during their hospital admission (i.e., inpatients) and subsequently discharged prior to completing 14 days should be transferred from the acute care setting to the PHU.
- Acute care settings actively monitor close contacts who were exposed in the hospital and are currently admitted (i.e., inpatients). This includes patients who were exposed in the emergency department and subsequently admitted. Acute care settings also actively monitor health care workers who were exposed at work. Acute care settings should refer to PIDAC [Tools for Preparedness: Triage, Screening and Patient Management for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus \(2019-nCoV\) Infections in Acute Care Settings](#) for additional information.

Close contact tracing

- PHUs conduct contact tracing activities to identify close contacts of a probable, presumptive confirmed or confirmed case (see [Appendix 5](#) for a sample worksheet to conduct close contact tracing activities).
- For the purpose of follow-up and monitoring by PHUs, close contacts are defined as⁹:
 - anyone who provided care (e.g., bathing, toileting, dressing or feeding) for the probable, presumptive confirmed, or confirmed case while the person was symptomatic, including a health care worker, family member, or individual who had other similarly close physical contact OR
 - anyone who stayed at the same place (e.g., lived with, visited) while the case was ill.

⁹ This close contact definition assumes that the case self-isolated while symptomatic. If the case did not isolate while symptomatic - or if the case visited a health care setting while symptomatic - PHUs should consider additional environments where exposures may have occurred to identify contacts for follow-up and monitoring (e.g., workplace, places of worship, recreation centres, conveyance/vehicles, health care setting waiting area or room, and other health care setting exposures).

Close contact follow-up and monitoring

- The PHU actively monitors close contacts on a daily basis for 14 days following last known exposure or until a probable case no longer meets the case definition (e.g., the laboratory investigation has ruled out 2019-nCoV infection).¹⁰
- The PHU can use the **Daily Contact Clinical Update Form** in [Appendix 6](#) to monitor close contacts. Close contacts should be informed of how to contact the PHU if they develop symptoms or have other questions.
 - A close contact who becomes ill with any acute respiratory infection symptoms or fever within 14 days following last known exposure to the case should immediately self-isolate and report their symptoms to the PHU. The PHU should facilitate testing for 2019-nCoV and manage the symptomatic close contact as a PUI (including the initiation of further case and contact management activities) until laboratory testing results are available. Health care workers should submit samples to PHO following the guidance on the ministry's website on 2019-nCoV. Detailed information on [laboratory testing for 2019-nCoV](#) is available at the PHO website.
 - Testing asymptomatic contacts for 2019-nCoV is not recommended at this time. However, in the event that an asymptomatic contact tests positive for 2019-nCoV, the PHU should manage this person as if they were a case (including the initiation of further case and contact management activities). The PHU can remove an asymptomatic case from isolation after two negative respiratory specimens¹¹ collected 24 hours apart, or after they have completed a 14-day isolation period without any symptoms.

Public health advice

- The PHU should advise close contacts to undertake the following activities for 14 days following last known exposure to the case or until the probable case no longer meets the case definition (i.e., the laboratory investigation has ruled out 2019-nCoV infection):
 - All individuals travelling from Hubei province should self-isolate for 14 days and monitor themselves for signs and symptoms.
 - Close contacts of confirmed cases should go into self-isolation for 14 days after the last exposure to the case. The close contact should also self-monitor for signs and symptoms, in addition to the active monitoring conducted by the PHU.
 - Close contacts should self-monitor for the appearance of any acute respiratory illness, symptoms of which include acute onset of fever and/ or

¹⁰ PHUs may choose to prioritize follow-up and monitoring of close contacts based on their assessment of each contact's risk of exposure. Considerations for prioritizing follow-up and monitoring may include the length of exposure, the type and nature of exposure (e.g., ambulatory transfers, living with the case or having prolonged contact within two metres), features of the environment/location of the exposure, and the underlying health status of the contact. The MEOC can support the PHU in making these decisions.

¹¹ Where feasible, the collection of two respiratory specimens at the time of each testing (e.g. nasopharyngeal plus throat swab) is recommended.

- respiratory symptoms, including measuring their temperature daily (recognizing that young children and the elderly may not develop a fever).
- Close contacts should maintain good respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene practices.
- Close contacts should avoid close contact with the cases as much as possible and follow relevant advice provided in the [Case Management](#) section.
- Should symptoms develop, close contacts should immediately self-isolate (if not already in self-isolation), and maintain distance from others in the household environment to the extent possible (e.g., stay in separate room or maintain distance of two metres) and make contact with their usual health care provider and the PHU for further advice on getting assessed and tested.
- PHUs should facilitate testing of the symptomatic close contact including ensuring the receiving health services are informed ahead of time.
- The PHU should advise close contacts to seek medical attention if symptoms worsen and/ or call 911 if they require emergency care. Inform paramedic services or health care provider(s) that they are a close contact of a case.
- The PHU should advise close contacts that if they develop symptoms, the PHU will ask them to isolate themselves for several days until laboratory testing has ruled out 2019-nCoV infection – and to isolate themselves for even longer if laboratory testing confirms 2019-nCoV infection (if not already in self-isolation).
- The PHU should ask close contacts to consider the steps that they would need to take to be able to isolate themselves. This might include discussion with employers, making alternate arrangements to support children/dependents and ensuring an adequate supply of groceries and other necessities.

Contact management for a case that travelled

- The MEOC supports the PHU to conduct contact tracing, follow-up and monitoring when a probable, presumptive confirmed or confirmed case travelled while symptomatic on any type of public or commercial conveyance – including aircraft, rail or bus – regardless of duration of travel.
 - Close contacts include passengers in the same row as the case, passengers in the three rows in front and three rows behind the case, all crew members, passengers who provided care for the case on board the conveyance, and passengers with > 15 minutes of face-to-face contact with the case or who were in contact with the case's secretions.
 - If the case is a crew member on a flight and if all passengers cannot be contacted, public health officials should concentrate contact tracing efforts on passengers seated in the area in which the crew member was working during the flight as well as other members of the crew.
 - Where feasible and depending on the symptomatology of the case during the flight/ trip, the PHU and MEOC may consider conducting contact tracing, follow-up and monitoring of all passengers on the aircraft or in the same railcar.

- The PHU and/or MEOC works with PHAC's Office of Border Health Services to obtain passenger flight manifests for international flights.

Management of non-close contacts

- In the event contacts are identified who do not meet criteria for being a close contact (e.g., passengers on an airplane beyond the three rows from the case), the PHU may provide information on self-monitoring for 14 days from the exposure. Non-close contacts may be provided with information on symptoms to watch for, how to contact their local health unit if symptoms develop, and advice on self-isolating if symptoms develop.

Responsibilities

All PHUs:

- Keep updated on the 2019-nCoV case definitions (available on the ministry's [Guidance for Health Care Workers and Health Sector Employers on 2019-nCoV website](#)).
- Review the case and contact management guidance in this document.
- Ensure health care workers who may be engaged in case and contact management are aware of appropriate OHS & IPAC measures and have current fit-testing for an N95 respirator, in case specimen collection or aerosol-generating procedures are conducted.

PHUs with a probable, presumptive confirmed or confirmed case within their jurisdiction:

- Submit initial minimum data fields from the SARI Case Report Form to the MEOC¹² as soon as possible in order to facilitate the ministry's reporting to the PHAC (see [Reporting to the Public Health Agency of Canada](#) for more information).
- Submit any remaining data fields from the SARI Case Report Form to the MEOC as soon as possible.
- Submit the completed SARI Case Report Form to PHO via iPHIS referral.
- Conduct contact tracing to identify close contacts of the case.
- Monitor the case on a daily basis for the duration of illness or until laboratory testing has ruled out 2019-nCoV infection.
- Monitor close contacts on a daily basis for 14 days following last known exposure to a case.
- Ensure close contacts of cases are self-isolating for 14 days following the last exposure to the case.

¹² The MEOC will provide guidance on how to transmit information including the SARI case report forms. Direction about data entry via iPHIS will be provided through regular routes, including iPHIS Bulletins.

- Ensure local health care workers are aware of appropriate screening, laboratory testing and IPAC & OHS measures.
- Support coordinated provincial communication activities.

PHO:

- Participate in the MEOC's response activities.
- Provide scientific and technical advice to stakeholders in areas such as laboratory testing, case and contact management information, reporting of case information using SARI case report form and data entry in the integrated public health information system (iPHIS), outbreak management recommendations, and advice on clinical management and IPAC & OHS measures.
- Conduct provincial epidemiological surveillance and analyses.
- Provide laboratory testing for 2019-nCoV.

Ministry of Health:

- Coordinate the response to 2019-nCoV in Ontario.
- Coordinate and participate in MEOC's response activities.
- Share information with the public.
- Receive notifications of PUIs.
- Report case details to PHAC.

Additional Resources

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [2019-nCoV website](#)
- European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control's [2019-nCoV website](#)
- Ministry of Health's [novel coronavirus website](#)
- Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee's [Tools for Preparedness: Triage, Screening and Patient Management of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus \(MERS-CoV\) Infections in Acute Care Settings](#)
- Public Health Agency of Canada's [Emerging Respiratory Infection website](#)
- World Health Organization's [Disease Outbreak News website](#)
- World Health Organization's [Global Alert and Response website](#)
- World Health Organization's [coronavirus](#)

Emerging Pathogens and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) Case Report Form

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION					
<input type="checkbox"/> Initial Report <input type="checkbox"/> Updated Report	Report Date: ____/____/____ (dd/mm/yyyy)				
Outbreak or cluster related? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If yes, local Outbreak #: _____ Number of ill persons associated with the outbreak: _____	For Provincial Use Only Has the outbreak been declared and made public? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If case is related to a provincial /territorial outbreak, P/T Outbreak ID: _____				
(3) CASE DETAILS: DISEASE / AETIOLOGIC AGENT / SUBTYPE					
<input type="checkbox"/> Severe Acute Respiratory Infection <input type="checkbox"/> Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) <input type="checkbox"/> 2019-nCoV, Wuhan, China <input type="checkbox"/> Other Novel Respiratory Pathogen <i>Specify:</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Novel Influenza A <input type="checkbox"/> H1__ <input type="checkbox"/> H3__ <input type="checkbox"/> H5__ <input type="checkbox"/> H7__ <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Novel Influenza B _____				
(4) CASE DETAILS: CASE CLASSIFICATION <small>(please refer to Ontario case definitions)</small>					
<input type="checkbox"/> Confirmed <input type="checkbox"/> Presumptive Confirmed <input type="checkbox"/> Probable					
(5) CLIENT RECORD: DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION					
Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <input type="checkbox"/> Other (sp): _____	Age: _____ years <i>If under 2 years</i> _____ months <input type="checkbox"/> Unk				
Does the case identify as Aboriginal? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused to answer <input type="checkbox"/> Unk If yes, please indicate which group: <input type="checkbox"/> First Nations <input type="checkbox"/> Metis <input type="checkbox"/> Inuit Does the case reside on a First Nations reserve most of the time? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Refused to answer <input type="checkbox"/> Unk					
(6) SYMPTOMS <small>(check all that apply)</small>					
Date of onset of first symptom(s): ____/____/____ (dd/mm/yyyy)					
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$) <input type="checkbox"/> Feverish (temp. not taken) <input type="checkbox"/> Cough <input type="checkbox"/> Sputum production <input type="checkbox"/> Headache <input type="checkbox"/> Rhinorrhea/nasal congestion <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat </td> <td style="width: 25%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Swollen lymph nodes <input type="checkbox"/> Sneezing <input type="checkbox"/> Conjunctivitis <input type="checkbox"/> Otitis <input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue/prostration <input type="checkbox"/> Malaise/chills <input type="checkbox"/> Myalgia/muscle pain <input type="checkbox"/> Arthralgia/joint pain </td> <td style="width: 25%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing <input type="checkbox"/> Chest pain <input type="checkbox"/> Anorexia/decreased appetite <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea <input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea <input type="checkbox"/> Abdominal pain </td> <td style="width: 25%; vertical-align: top;"> <input type="checkbox"/> Nose bleed <input type="checkbox"/> Rash <input type="checkbox"/> Seizures <input type="checkbox"/> Dizziness <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No Symptoms </td> </tr> </table>		<input type="checkbox"/> Fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$) <input type="checkbox"/> Feverish (temp. not taken) <input type="checkbox"/> Cough <input type="checkbox"/> Sputum production <input type="checkbox"/> Headache <input type="checkbox"/> Rhinorrhea/nasal congestion <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat	<input type="checkbox"/> Swollen lymph nodes <input type="checkbox"/> Sneezing <input type="checkbox"/> Conjunctivitis <input type="checkbox"/> Otitis <input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue/prostration <input type="checkbox"/> Malaise/chills <input type="checkbox"/> Myalgia/muscle pain <input type="checkbox"/> Arthralgia/joint pain	<input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing <input type="checkbox"/> Chest pain <input type="checkbox"/> Anorexia/decreased appetite <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea <input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea <input type="checkbox"/> Abdominal pain	<input type="checkbox"/> Nose bleed <input type="checkbox"/> Rash <input type="checkbox"/> Seizures <input type="checkbox"/> Dizziness <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No Symptoms
<input type="checkbox"/> Fever ($\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$) <input type="checkbox"/> Feverish (temp. not taken) <input type="checkbox"/> Cough <input type="checkbox"/> Sputum production <input type="checkbox"/> Headache <input type="checkbox"/> Rhinorrhea/nasal congestion <input type="checkbox"/> Sore throat	<input type="checkbox"/> Swollen lymph nodes <input type="checkbox"/> Sneezing <input type="checkbox"/> Conjunctivitis <input type="checkbox"/> Otitis <input type="checkbox"/> Fatigue/prostration <input type="checkbox"/> Malaise/chills <input type="checkbox"/> Myalgia/muscle pain <input type="checkbox"/> Arthralgia/joint pain	<input type="checkbox"/> Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing <input type="checkbox"/> Chest pain <input type="checkbox"/> Anorexia/decreased appetite <input type="checkbox"/> Nausea <input type="checkbox"/> Vomiting <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea <input type="checkbox"/> Abdominal pain	<input type="checkbox"/> Nose bleed <input type="checkbox"/> Rash <input type="checkbox"/> Seizures <input type="checkbox"/> Dizziness <input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: _____ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> No Symptoms		

(7) SYMPTOMS, INTERVENTIONS, and OUTCOME

Date of first presentation to medical care: ____/____/____ (dd/mm/yyyy)

Clinical Evaluations (check all that apply) Altered mental status Arrhythmia Clinical or radiological evidence of pneumonia Diagnosed with Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome Encephalitis Hypotension Meningismus/nu
chal rigidity O2 saturation
≤95% Renal Failure Sepsis Tachypnea (accelerated
respiratory rate) Other (specify): _____

Case Hospitalized?

 Yes No UnkDiagnosis at time of admission:
_____Admission Date: ____/____/____
(dd/mm/yyyy)Re Admission Date: ____/____/____
(dd/mm/yyyy)

Case admitted to Intensive Care Unit (ICU)

 Yes No UnkICU Admission Date: ____/____/____
(dd/mm/yyyy)ICU Discharge Date: ____/____/____
(dd/mm/yyyy)Patient isolated in hospital? Yes No UnkIf yes, specify type of isolation (e.g., respiratory
droplet precaution, negative
pressure): _____

Supplemental oxygen therapy

 No Unk Yes

Mechanical ventilation

 Unk Yes No

If yes, number of days on ventilation _____

Case Discharged from Hospital

 No Unk YesDischarge Date 1: ____/____/____
(dd/mm/yyyy)

Case Transferred to another hospital

 No Unk YesDischarge Date 2: ____/____/____
(dd/mm/yyyy)Transfer Date: ____/____/____
(dd/mm/yyyy)

Current Disposition

____/____/____ (dd/mm/yyyy)

 Recovered Stable Deteriorating Deceased

If deceased, is post-mortem:

 Performed Pending None Unk

Respiratory illness contributed to the cause of death?

 Yes No Unk

Respiratory illness was the underlying cause of death?

 Yes No UnkCause of death (as listed on death
certificate): _____**(8) RISK FACTORS (check all that apply)** None identified

Cardiac Disease

If yes, please specify:

 Yes No UnkHemoglobinopathy/Ane
mia

If yes, please specify:

 Yes No Unk

Hepatic Disease

If yes, please specify:

 Yes No UnkReceiving
immunosuppressing
medications

If yes, please specify:

 Yes No Unk

Metabolic Disease

If yes, please specify:

 Yes No Unk

Substance use

If yes, please specify:

 Yes No Unk

<input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> Obese (BMI > 30) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Smoker (current) <input type="checkbox"/> Alcohol abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Injection drug use <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ _____
Renal Disease <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <i>If yes, please specify:</i>	Malignancy <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <i>If yes, please specify:</i>
Respiratory Disease <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <i>If yes, please specify:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Asthma <input type="checkbox"/> Tuberculosis <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ _____	Other Chronic Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <i>If yes, please specify:</i>
Neurologic Disorder <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <i>If yes, please specify:</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Neuromuscular Disorder <input type="checkbox"/> Epilepsy <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ _____	Pregnancy <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <i>If yes, week of gestation:</i> _____
Immunodeficiency disease / condition <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <i>If yes, please specify:</i>	Post-Partum (≤6 weeks) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk

(9) TREATMENT *(submit additional information on a separate page if required)*

Did the case receive prescribed prophylaxis prior to symptom onset? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk	Specify name: _____ date of first dose: ____/____/_____ (dd/mm/yyyy) date of last dose: ____/____/_____ (dd/mm/yyyy)
--	--

In the treatment of this infection, is the case taking: <input type="checkbox"/> Antiviral medication <input type="checkbox"/> Antibiotic/antifungal medication <input type="checkbox"/> Immunosuppressant/immunomodulating medication <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Specify name (1): _____ date of first dose (1): ____/____/_____ (dd/mm/yyyy) date of last dose (1): ____/____/_____ (dd/mm/yyyy) Specify name (2): _____ date of first dose (2): ____/____/_____ (dd/mm/yyyy) date of last dose (2): ____/____/_____ (dd/mm/yyyy)
--	--

(10) INTERVENTIONS: IMMUNIZATIONS

Did the case receive the <u>current</u> year's seasonal influenza vaccine? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <input type="checkbox"/> Vaccine not yet available	<i>If yes, date of vaccination:</i> ____/____/_____ (dd/mm/yyyy)
--	--

Did the case receive the previous year's seasonal influenza vaccine? Yes No Unk

Did the case receive pneumococcal vaccine in the past? Yes No Unk
 If yes, year of most recent dose: ____/____/____ (dd/mm/yyyy)
 If yes, type polysaccharide or conjugate: 7 or 13

(11) LABORATORY INFORMATION

Microbiology / Virology / Serology (complete if applicable)

Lab ID	Date Specimen Collected	Specimen Type & Source	Test Method	Test Result	Test Date

Antimicrobial Resistance of suspect etiological agent(s) (complete if applicable)

Lab ID	Name of Antimicrobial	Specimen Type & Source	Test Method	Test Result	Test Date

(12) EXPOSURES (add additional details in the comments section as necessary)

Travel

In the 14 days prior to symptom onset, did the case travel outside of their province/territory of residence or outside of Canada? Yes No Unk
 If yes, please specify the following (submit additional information on a separate page if required)

	Country/City Visited	Hotel or Residence	Dates of Travel
Trip 1			
Trip 2			

In the 14 days prior to symptom onset, did the case travel on a plane or other public carrier(s)? Yes No Unk

If yes, please specify the following

Travel Type	Carrier Name	Flight / Carrier #	Seat #	City of Origin	Dates of Travel

Human

In the 14 days prior to symptom onset, was the case in close contact (cared for, lived with, spent significant time within enclosed quarters (e.g., co-worker) or had direct contact with respiratory secretions) with:

A confirmed case of the same disease? Yes No Unk

If yes, specify the Case ID: _____

A probable case of the same disease?

If yes, specify disease: _____ and specify the Case ID: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk
A person who had fever, respiratory symptoms like cough or sore throat, or respiratory illness like pneumonia? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <i>If yes, specify the type of contact:</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Household member <input type="checkbox"/> Person who works in a healthcare setting <input type="checkbox"/> Works with Patients <input type="checkbox"/> Person who works with animals	<input type="checkbox"/> Person who travelled outside of Canada <input type="checkbox"/> Person who works in a laboratory <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____
Where did exposure occur?	
<input type="checkbox"/> In a household setting <input type="checkbox"/> School/daycare <input type="checkbox"/> Farm <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/> In a health care setting (e.g., hospital, long-term care home, community provider's office) <input type="checkbox"/> Other institutional setting (dormitory, shelter/group home, prison, etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> In means of travel (plane, train, etc.)
Occupational / Residential	
The case is a:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Health care worker or health care volunteer <i>If yes, with direct patient contact?</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <input type="checkbox"/> Laboratory worker handling biological specimens <input type="checkbox"/> School or daycare worker/ attendee <input type="checkbox"/> Resident of a retirement residence or long-term care facility	<input type="checkbox"/> Resident in an institutional facility (<i>dormitory, shelter/group home, prison, etc. </i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Veterinary worker <input type="checkbox"/> Farm worker <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Animal	
A. Direct Contact (<i>touch or handle</i>)	
In the 14 days prior to symptom onset, did the case have <u>direct contact</u> with any animals or animal products (<i>faeces, bedding/nests, carcass/fresh meat, fur/skins, camel milk, etc.</i>)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <i>If yes, specify date of last direct contact: ____/____/____ (dd/mm/yyyy)</i>	
What type of animals did the case have direct contact with? (<i>check all that apply</i>)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cat(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Dogs <input type="checkbox"/> Horses <input type="checkbox"/> Cows <input type="checkbox"/> Poultry <input type="checkbox"/> Sheep / Goat <input type="checkbox"/> Wild Birds <input type="checkbox"/> Rodents <input type="checkbox"/> Swine <input type="checkbox"/> Camel <input type="checkbox"/> Snakes/ reptiles <input type="checkbox"/> Wild game (eg. Deer) <input type="checkbox"/> Bats <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
Did the animal display any symptoms of illness or was the animal dead? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk	
Where did the direct contact occur? (<i>check all that apply</i>)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/> Work (<i>fill in occupational section</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural fair or event/petting zoo <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor work/recreation (camping, hiking, hunting etc.) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	
B. Indirect Contact (<i>e.g., visit or walk through or work in an area where animals are present, etc.</i>)	
In the 14 days prior to symptom onset, did the case have <u>indirect contact</u> with animals? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Unk <i>If yes, specify date of last indirect contact: ____/____/____ (dd/mm/yyyy)</i>	

Where did the indirect contact occur? *(check all that apply)*

- Home
- Work *(fill in occupational section)*
- Agricultural fair or event/petting zoo
- Outdoor work / recreation (camping, hiking, hunting, etc.)
- Market where animals, meats and/or animal products are sold
- Other: _____

(13) ADDITIONAL DETAILS/COMMENTS *(add as necessary)*

Appendix 2: Routine Activities Prompt Worksheet – Case¹³

When interviewing a case, ensure that the following activity prompts are considered to identify a possible source of infection within the 14 days prior to the onset of symptoms: work; school; visitors at home; volunteer activities; daycare; religious activities; social activities (restaurants, shopping); sports; visits to acute care settings, long-term care homes, retirement homes, medical labs, dentists, and other health care providers; contact with ill persons; and contact with birds/swine or other animals.

Date of Onset: _____ (Create an acquisition exposure for each activity)

Case Last Name: _____ Case First Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____

PHU representative: _____

Date/Time (Start and End)	Activities/Contacts	Location of Activity	Contact Person (Name & Tel)	Comments

¹³ Adapted with permission from Toronto Public Health

Date/Time (Start and End)	Activities/Contacts	Location of Activity	Contact Person (Name & Tel)	Comments

Appendix 3: Daily Clinical Update Form – Case Managed in an Acute Care Setting

Case Last Name: _____

Case First Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____
(yy/mm/dd)

Gender: _____

Progression	Follow-up Date/Time (YEAR/MM/DD)	Purpose (1)	Admission Date (YEAR/MM/DD)	Discharge Date (YEAR/M/DD)	Facility Name (Progression Recovery Location) (2)	Facility Type (3)	Classes (4)	Progression (Clinical) (5)	Progression					PHU representative	
									ICU (Y/N/DK)	Antiviral Drugs (Y/N/DK)	Oxygen Saturation	Temp	On Oxygen (Y/N/DK)		

1) Purpose C = Convalescing D = Diagnostics I = Isolation T = Treatment	(2) Facility Name - Progression Recovery Location Enter facility name or DK = Don't know	(3) Facility Type Hosp = Hospital LTC = Long-term care Home = person is at home DK = Don't know	(4) Classification C = Confirmed P = Probable PUI = Person Under Investigation DNM = Does Not Meet case definition	5) Progression – Clinical CC = Case Closed. Completed home isolation after discharged from hospital or no longer being followed. D = Deceased DC = Discharged I = Improving	II = Improving (Intubated) S = Stable SI = Stable (Intubated) W = Worsening WI = Worsening (Intubated) EX = Extubated	Notes:
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Appendix 5: Close Contact Tracing Worksheet¹⁴

When interviewing a case to identify potential close contacts, consider all individuals that could have had exposure since the case was symptomatic. See the [Close Contact Tracing](#) section for the definition of a close contact. Use the following activity prompts to help identify potential close contacts: work; school; visitors at home; volunteer activities; daycare; religious activities; social activities (restaurants, shopping); sports; visits to acute care settings, long-term care homes, retirement homes, medical labs, dentists, and other health care providers; contact with ill persons; and contact with birds/swine or other animals.

Date of Onset: _____

Case Last
Name: _____

Case first
Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____
(yy/mm/dd)

Gender: _____

PHU
representative: _____

Date/Time (Start and End)	Activities	Location of Activity	Name & contact information of potential close contacts	Comments

¹⁴ Adapted with permission from Toronto Public Health

Date/Time (Start and End)	Activities	Location of Activity	Name & contact information of potential close contacts	Comments

Appendix 6: Close Contact Daily Clinical Update Form

Contact Last Name: _____

Contact First Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____
(yy/mm/dd)

Gender: _____

PHU representative: _____

Follow-up Date/Time (YEAR/MM/DD and 24 Hour Clock)	Symptoms? (Y/N)	If yes, please specify (e.g., fever >38; cough, difficulty breathing, headache, fatigue, sore throat, chills, muscle pain, nasal congestion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, joint pain, decreased appetite)	Did contact seek medical attention for ARI symptoms? (Y/N)	If yes, please specify where contact went to seek attention (e.g., primary health care, home care, acute care, etc.)

Follow-up Date/Time (YEAR/MM/DD and 24 Hour Clock)	Symptoms? (Y/N)	If yes, please specify (e.g., fever >38; cough, difficulty breathing, headache, fatigue, sore throat, chills, muscle pain, nasal congestion, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, joint pain, decreased appetite)	Did contact seek medical attention for ARI symptoms? (Y/N)	If yes, please specify where contact went to seek attention (e.g., primary health care, home care, acute care, etc.)

Document History

Revision Date	Document Section	Description of Revisions
January 30 2020		Document was created.
February 5 2020	Contact Management – Public Health Advice	Language included to reflect policy change: self-isolation of 14 days for those returning from Hubei province and for close contacts of cases.