

Situation Report #1: 2019-nCoV (Novel Coronavirus)

Ministry of Health | Health System Emergency Management
Branch

January 25, 2020

Situation:

- Ontario identified a presumptive confirmed case in Toronto. This is Ontario's and Canada's first case. Testing is ongoing for persons under investigation (numbers will be updated on the ministry's website starting tomorrow).
- Case counts are rapidly evolving and the number is expected to increase.
 - Updated case counts as of January 25, 2020:
 - China: 1,287 cases (29 provinces) and 41 death
 - The media has reported a death in a 62 year old ENT surgeon (his exposure is not known at this point)
 - Asia Region: Thailand (5), Singapore (3), Vietnam (2), Hong Kong (5), Macau (2), Japan (2), South Korea (1), Taiwan (1), Nepal (1), Nepal (1), Malaysia (3),
 - Rest of the world: United States (2), France (3), Australia (4)
 - Suspected cases reported in numerous countries.
- China continues to expand public health measures including restrictions to travel and public gatherings. In addition, Hong Kong will be closing schools for an additional two weeks after lunar new year.
- Canada began enhanced screening measures at the international airports in Toronto (YYZ), Montreal (YUL), and Vancouver (YVR). Signage is posted with information for returning travellers regarding this novel coronavirus and signs and symptoms to watch for. Further enhanced screening measures are expected.

Actions Taken:

- On January 2nd, 3rd, 8th, 10th and 23rd the ministry issued status updates to local medical officers of health
- On January 10th and 23rd the ministry issued status updates to health system partners (unions, associations, regulatory colleges and LHINs/OH).
- On January 6th, 10th and 23rd the eCTAS system was updated to prompt screening in hospitals and appropriate Infection Prevention and Control precautions.
- On January 22nd the ministry provided a technical briefing to media about 2019-nCoV and announcing that the relevant regulations have been updated under the Health Protection and Promotion Act to ensure all cases of novel coronaviruses are reported in Ontario.

- On January 25th the ministry held a press conference to announce the identification of a presumptive confirmed case of 2019-nCoV.
- Since early January the ministry has been undertaking advanced planning activities to support health system readiness.

Next Steps:

- Finalize guidance for different settings (acute care, primary care, long-term care, home care, paramedics).
- Finalize a website for health providers with relevant guidance.
- Continue to monitor the availability of supplies and equipment within the health system and implement strategies to enhance the system's capacity where required.
- Continue to monitor this situation externally and within our health system.
- Support other OPS partners in their response activities.
- Formalize an operational cycle and share with partners