

SUBJECT: CHANGE to Case Definition for 2019-nCoV and
NEW Home Isolation Requirements

Date: February 8, 2020

Pages: 2 with two attachments

To: Primary Care Providers, Emergency Departments and Infection
Control Practitioners

From: Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health and CEO

Changes to Case Definition and Home Isolation Requirements:

1. The **case definitions** for a Person Under Investigation for 2019-nCoV or for a Probable Case for 2019-nCoV have changed. The most important difference is that the relevant travel history has now been expanded to **travel to mainland China** in the 14 days before onset of illness.

Please ensure that patients phoning or visiting your office are screened for the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) based on their symptoms, travel history, and close contact with possible cases of 2019-nCoV.

Testing should be done if a patient has a fever and/or cough or difficulty breathing AND any of:

- Travel to **mainland China** in the 14 days before onset of illness; OR
- **Close contact** with a confirmed or probable case of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV); OR
- **Close contact** with a person with acute respiratory illness who has been to **mainland China** within 14 days prior to their illness onset.

Testing requires the ability to take appropriate airborne/droplet/contact precautions (including use of a fit-tested N95 mask) during specimen collection. **If a patient screens positive, please contact WDGPH** and we will help to determine the most appropriate setting for testing to occur.

For patients **without a travel history** in the past 14 days to mainland China and **without close contact** with a confirmed or probable case the risk that they have novel coronavirus is extremely low.

If your patient does not meet these case definitions, please do not send them to the Emergency Department for testing. They can be seen in your office using routine infection control practices.

2. Requirements for Home Isolation

Any symptomatic traveller returning from Hubei Province OR mainland China being sent home must be sent home in home isolation and reported to Public Health for monitoring.

Health care providers can speak with a Public Health Nurse about 2019-nCoV by calling WDG Public Health's Coronavirus Call Centre at at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4752 (Health Care Providers) or ext. 7006 (public inquiries), Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

All Ministry of Health Guidance documents on 2019-nCoV including information on home isolation for PUIs are available at wdgpublichealth.ca/hcpcoronavirus

For more information:

Name/Title: WDG Public Health, Control of Infectious Diseases
Contact: 1-800-265-7293 ext. 4752
www.wdgpublichealth.ca

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Case Definition for Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Person under Investigation for 2019-nCoV

A person with fever and/or cough or difficulty breathing

AND any of the following:

Travel to mainland China in the 14 days before onset of illness

OR

Close contact with a confirmed or probable case of 2019-nCoV

OR

Close contact with a person with acute respiratory illness who has been to mainland China within 14 days prior to their illness onset

Probable Case for 2019-nCoV

A person:

with fever (over 38 degrees Celsius) and/or new onset of (or exacerbation of chronic) cough

AND any of the following:

Travel to mainland China in the 14 days before onset of illness

OR

Close contact with a confirmed or probable case of 2019-nCoV

OR

Close contact with a person with acute respiratory illness who has been mainland China within 14 days prior to their illness onset

AND

in whom laboratory diagnosis of 2019-nCoV is not available, inconclusive or negative (if specimen quality or timing is suspect)

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Presumptive Positive Case for 2019-nCoV

A person in whom the laboratory test for 2019-nCoV is positive from the Public Health Ontario Laboratory but not yet confirmed by the National Microbiological Laboratory.

Confirmed Case for 2019-nCoV

A person with laboratory confirmation of infection with 2019-nCoV which consists of positive real-time PCR on at least two specific genomic targets or a single positive target with sequencing AND confirmed by NML by nucleic acid testing.

Case Definition Footnotes

1. The incubation period of 2019-nCoV is unknown. SARS-CoV demonstrated a prolonged incubation period (median 4-5 days; range 2-10 days) compared to other human coronavirus infections (average 2 days; typical range 12 hours to 5 days). The incubation period for MERS-CoV is approximately 5 days (range 2-14 days). Allowing for variability and recall error and to establish consistency with the World Health Organization's 2019-nCoV case definition, exposure history based on the prior 14 days is recommended at this time.
2. A close contact is defined as a person who provided care for the patient, including healthcare workers, family members or other caregivers, or who had other similar close physical contact OR who lived with or otherwise had close prolonged contact with a probable or confirmed case while the case was ill.
3. Other exposure scenarios not specifically mentioned here may arise and may be considered at jurisdictional discretion (e.g. history of being a patient in the same ward or facility during a nosocomial outbreak of 2019-nCoV).
4. There is limited evidence on the likelihood of 2019-nCoV presenting as a co-infection with other pathogens. At this time, the identification of one causative agent should not exclude 2019-nCoV where the index of suspicion may be high.
5. Laboratory confirmation may not be available due to no possibility of acquiring samples for laboratory testing of 2019-nCoV.
6. Inconclusive is defined as a positive test on a single real-time PCR target or a positive test with an assay that has limited performance data available
7. Laboratory tests are evolving for this emerging pathogen, and laboratory testing recommendations will change accordingly as new assays are developed and validated.

Updated 2019-nCoV Respiratory Infection Screener (February 8, 2020)

Recommended best practice is to screen patients prior to each visit where possible.

The 2019-nCoV Respiratory Infection Screener consists of 5 questions

PART A: Symptoms

1. Do you or anyone in your household have new/worse cough or shortness of breath?	Yes ____ No ____
2. Are you feeling feverish, or have you had shakes or chills in the last 24 hours (>38 degrees Celsius)?	Yes ____ No ____

PART B: Travel/Contact

3. Have you traveled to mainland, China (including Hubei province) in the last 14 days?	Yes ____ No ____
4. Have you had close contact with a confirmed or probable case of someone with novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?	Yes ____ No ____
5. Have you had close contact with a person with acute respiratory illness who has been to mainland, China (including Hubei province) within 14 days prior to their illness onset?	Yes ____ No ____

Screener Result Scenarios:

Part A = Yes Part B = No (Negative 2019-nCoV Screen)	If answered ' Yes ' to # 1 or to # 1 and 2 questions in Part A but ' No ' to all travel/contact questions in part B, proceed with respiratory illness (droplet) precautions.
Part A = Yes Part B = Yes (Positive 2019-nCoV Screen)	If answered ' Yes ' to one or both questions in Part A and ' Yes ' to one of the travel/contact questions in part B, consider testing for 2019-nCoV and notify WDGPH at 519-822-2715 x4752 (after hours 1-877-884-8653). NOTE: If the symptomatic patient is being discharged or sent home please notify Public Health and instruct the patient to observe home isolation.