



HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT

## COVID-19 Update #3 for the School Community

**February 27, 2020**

Currently there are **no cases of COVID-19 in Durham Region**. At this time, there is no need for additional measures as the risk for Durham Region residents remains low.

We continue to work with our provincial and federal health partners in response to this infectious disease. Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) will continue to monitor the situation and provide regular updates as information becomes available. If or when the situation changes, the Health Department will receive further guidance from the Ministry of Health and communicate accordingly.

Returning travelers from the following impacted areas: **China, Hong Kong, Iran, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and South Korea** are advised to monitor their health for fever, cough and difficulty breathing and separate themselves from others if they become ill. If symptoms develop they are informed to immediately call a health care professional, Durham Region Health Department or Telehealth 1-866-797-0000 for further instructions. It is the **responsibility of the employee/parent/student to report to the Health Department**.

As per standard practice, it is **recommended to have students with symptoms of any illness to wait in a separate area** while waiting for pick-up by their parent/caregiver.

**Standard Precautions to prevent exposure and transmission of illnesses should be followed and include:**

Frequent and thorough handwashing with soap and water or use of hand sanitizer when hands are not visibly dirty.

Coughing or sneezing into your sleeve or elbow and encouraging others to do the same.

Washing your hands after handling nose and throat secretions (e.g., after throwing out used facial tissues).

Avoid touching your face and clean hands before touching eyes, nose or mouth.

Cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, especially those that are high touch areas.

Do not share water bottles, straws, eating utensils, cigarettes, toothbrushes, toys or anything else that has been in contact with saliva, nose or throat secretions.



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If you are ill, stay at home and isolate yourself from others.

**Online links:**

The DRHD webpage about COVID-19 is available at this link for [Durham.ca](https://www.durham.ca).

A Facts About resource is available at this link for [Durham.ca](https://www.durham.ca)

Please refer to the above online resources as they are updated regularly. You may also wish to subscribe to receive email updates. Alternatively, questions can be directed to the Durham Health Connection Line at 905-668-2020 or toll free at 1-800-841-2729 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm