



HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

2019 Novel Coronavirus

COVID-19 (formerly known as 2019-nCoV)

Update #2 for the School Community, February 12, 2020

The World Health Organization has renamed 2019-nCoV, with the formal name of COVID-19. This name change will be reflected in future documents published by the Ministry of Health.

Currently there are **no cases of COVID-19 in Durham Region** and the risk to residents remains low as the virus is not spreading in the general community. Most cases occurring around the world got the virus from travel in the affected area, were in close contact or live in the same household as known cases. In Canada to date there are 7 cases.

We continue to work with our provincial and federal health partners in response to this new virus. The Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) will continue to monitor the situation and provide regular updates as it becomes available.

Travellers are screened at entry into Canada at major airports and below are the current recommendations:

Travellers from Hubei Province

Individuals returning from Hubei province including Wuhan city are informed to contact the Health Department, self-isolate, monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 for 14 days upon returning from Hubei province. The Health Department will call individuals each day to monitor for signs and symptoms.

Travellers from Mainland China

Individuals returning from mainland China are to monitor for signs and symptoms for 14 days upon returning from mainland China and to notify the Health Department if they think they were a close contact of a person with COVID-2019 or if they develop symptoms (not required to isolate unless develop symptoms).

It is the responsibility of the employee/parent/student to report to the Health Department. The school/workplace should not call the Health Department to report an individual's travel.

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.



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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.

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

Online links:

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

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

Please feel free to refer parents and staff to the above online resources if they are asking about the COVID-19. 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