COVID-19 Update #8

Durham Region Health Department is currently monitoring two positive cases of COVID-19 in Ajax. The Health Department is actively following up on all close contacts of these cases. Individuals who were not in direct or close contact with the cases are not considered at risk of being infected. At this time the virus is not circulating locally, however given global circumstances, Durham Region Health Department is actively working with health partners to plan for the potential of local spread.

The Public Health Agency of Canada has updated recommendations for returning travellers, notably advice for travellers returning from Iran. In accordance with current PHAC recommendations, returning travellers should take the following steps:

Returning travellers from Hubei Province (China) or Iran:
- Limit contact with others, stay home, and self-isolate for 14 days after leaving.
- Contact Durham Region Health Department on arrival to Canada by calling 905-668-7711 ext 2996 or 1-800-841-2729.
- Durham Region Health Department will monitor these returning travellers.

Returning travellers from China (except Hubei Province), Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Singapore, or South Korea:
- Monitor their health for fever, cough or difficulty breathing and avoid places where they cannot easily separate themselves from others if they become ill.
- If they develop a fever, cough or difficulty breathing within 14 days they should isolate themselves from others as quickly as possible and immediately call their health care provider, Durham Region Health Department, or Telehealth at 1-866-797-0000 for further instructions.

For Health Care Providers who are testing patients for COVID-19, please ensure to contact Durham Region Health Department at 905-668-7711 ext 2996 OR after hours at 905-576-9991 to report the suspected case, for assistance with facilitating the testing process, or with questions about testing patients.

Durham Region Health Department will continue to monitor the situation and provide information as it becomes available. Current information on local COVID-19 cases and the role of the health department are located at durham.ca/novelcoronavirus. Information will also be posted on durham.ca/HCP.

March 3, 2020