



FAX about ...



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Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Update #3

Currently, there are **no cases** of 2019-nCoV in Durham Region. The 2019-nCoV [case definition](#) has been expanded to include **fever and/or onset of cough or difficulty breathing** (attached).

If a patient visiting your health care facility meets [case definition](#):

- Contact DRHD to report the case and determine next steps at 905-668-7711 ext 2996 or after hours 905-576-9991
- Contact [Public Health Ontario Laboratory](#) (416-235-6556 or 1-877-604-4567) as testing for 2019-nCoV requires approval
- If test is taken in your office, patient should self-isolate at home while awaiting results if well enough to do so
- DRHD will follow-up with patients who have been tested

The Ministry of Health has released Novel Coronavirus Guidance for Primary Care Providers (Version 2). To assist health system partners, the Ontario Medical Association has created a summary for Primary Care Providers in community settings (attached).

The Ministry released new documents for other sectors including:

- Acute Care Guidance
- Home and Community Care Guidance
- Home and Community Care Provider Positive Screen Algorithm
- Long Term Care Guidance

All of these documents are available on our website at durham.ca/HCP

The Ministry is preparing guidance documents for other sectors. DRHD will continue to monitor the situation and provide information as it becomes available. New information will also be posted on durham.ca/HCP. You can subscribe to this webpage to receive email updates.

Health care provider resources for novel coronavirus now available at durham.ca/HCP.

Durham Region Health Department: 905-668-2020, 1-800-841-2729

February 4, 2020

If you prefer to receive this information in an electronic format please submit your request to healthresources@durham.ca

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

Primary Care Providers in a community setting should:

	<p>PREPARE</p>	<p>APPLY <u>Routine Practices and Additional Precautions</u></p> <p>ASSESS whether your practice has the capacity to safely conduct a clinical examination and collect specimens for patients at risk of having 2019-nCoV</p> <p>Capacity requirements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to, and ability to safely use N95 respirators • Appropriate cleaning procedures in place <p>IMPLEMENT a process to screen patients and flag suspected cases</p>
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	<p>SCREEN</p>	<p>SCREEN PATIENTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By phone (if applicable) • At the door (via signage) • At reception <p><i>See page 2 for guidance on how to respond to suspected cases of 2019-nCoV, depending on whether your clinic has safety precautions in place</i></p>
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If your practice has safety precautions* in place to manage 2019-nCoV

	<p>EXAMINE</p>	<p>EXAMINE the patient and take a detailed history to determine if they meet the definition of <u>“Person Under Investigation”</u></p>
	<p>TEST</p>	<p>TEST: collect and submit specimens to <u>Public Health Ontario</u>, if you have capacity to do so, OR CONTACT the local public health unit to organize testing</p> <p>NOTES: • Primary care providers are not required to conduct testing. • Contact Public Health Ontario to obtain approval for testing before collecting specimens.**</p>

	<p>REPORT</p>	<p>REPORT all suspected and confirmed cases to your local Public Health Unit</p>
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* Safety precautions for the management of 2019-nCoV include: access to, and ability to safely use N95 respirators, and appropriate cleaning procedures in place
 ** For approval, contact PHO Laboratory's Customer Service Centre at 416-235-6556 / 1-877-604-4567 or the After-Hours Emergency Duty Officer at 416-605-3113

How to respond to suspected cases of 2019-nCoV in community-based practices:

If a patient screens positive by phone

AND

Your clinic has safety precautions* in place to manage 2019-nCoV

1. **EXAMINE:** You may offer to see the patient in your office for clinical assessment, examination, and testing if appropriate.

Your clinic does not have safety precautions in place to manage 2019-nCoV

1. Take a detailed history by phone
2. Determine if the patient meets the definition of “Person Under Investigation” (PUI).
3. **REPORT:** If the patient is a PUI, call your local public health unit to report the case, determine if testing is appropriate and (if so) determine next steps for the patient.

If a patient screens positive at the office

AND

Your clinic has safety precautions* in place to manage 2019-nCoV

1. **ISOLATE:** Mask the patient and isolate them in a room with a closed door upon arrival
2. **EXAMINE:** Take a detailed history and perform a clinical examination to determine if the patient meets the definition of “Person Under Investigation” (PUI)
3. **REPORT:** If the patient is a PUI, contact your local Public Health Unit to report the case and determine next steps, which could include:
 - **Testing** in at your office,** at a public health location, or at the local hospital
 - **Referral** to hospital***

Your clinic does not have safety precautions in place to manage 2019-nCoV

1. **ISOLATE:** Mask the patient and isolate them in a room with a closed door upon arrival
2. **EXAMINE (OPTIONAL):**
 - Maintain contact/droplet precautions and a 2-metre distance from the patient.
 - Take a history and do a visual examination to determine if the patient meets the definition of “Person Under Investigation” (PUI).
3. **REPORT:** If the patient is a PUI, contact your local Public Health Unit to report the case and determine next steps, which could include:
 - **Testing** at a public health location, or at the local hospital
 - **Referral** to hospital***

* Safety precautions for the management of 2019-nCoV include: access to, and ability to safely use N95 respirators, and appropriate cleaning procedures in place

** Primary care providers are not expected to conduct testing for 2019-nCoV; however they may do so if prepared and have the capacity to conduct the test and send specimens to Public Health Ontario.

*** If patients are referred to local hospital: coordinate with the hospital, the Public Health Unit and the patient to make safe arrangements for transfer that maintains isolation of the patient.