

2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Toronto Public Health (TPH)

March 13, 2020

Disclaimer: Toronto Public Health is not responsible for any misinterpretation or misuse of this presentation. The information on COVID-19 continues to evolve and that the talk reflects what is known at the time reflected in the talk date only.

1. What is COVID-19?
2. Current global situation
3. Roles of different levels of public health in Canada
4. Public Health Advice
5. Pandemics and Public Health Measures
6. Mass Gatherings

What is COVID-19?

- A new (novel) strain of coronavirus initially identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.
- Coronaviruses:
 - Large family of viruses found in both animals and humans.
 - Usually associated with mild illness (similar to the common cold) but can also cause more severe illness (eg. SARS, MERS).

Symptoms

- Symptoms:
 - More frequently noted
 - Fever
 - Dry cough
 - Shortness of breath
 - Less frequently noted
 - Muscle aches
 - Headache
 - Sore throat
 - Diarrhea



Fever

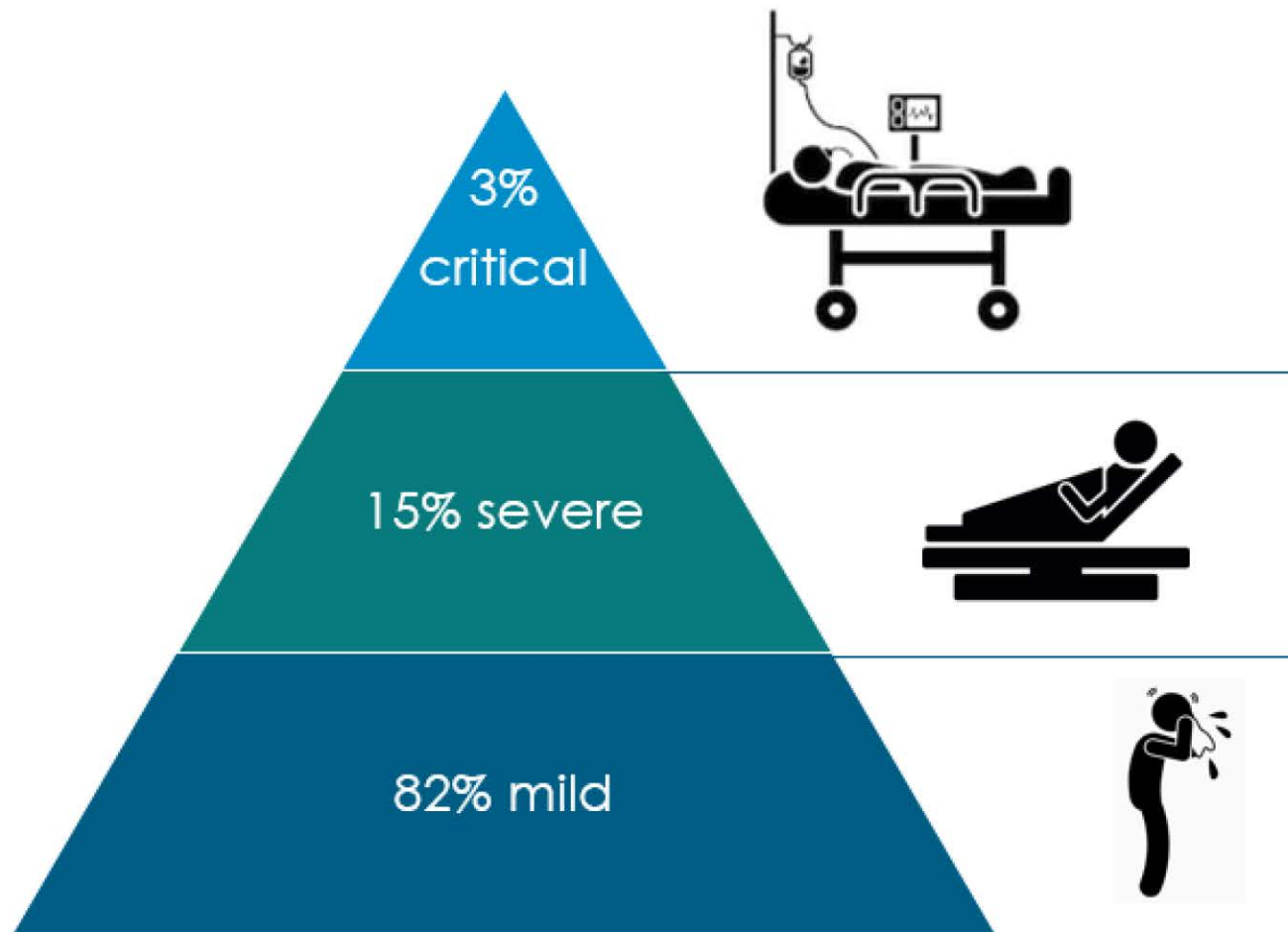


Cough



Shortness of Breath

Clinical Severity



Source: China NHC, 2020

Transmission/Spread

In general, for coronaviruses, spread occurs through:

- Respiratory droplets generated when you cough or sneeze.
- Touching something with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands.
- Close, prolonged personal contact such as living in the same household



Source: SCDHEC, 2019

No evidence, to date, of airborne spread.

Testing/Treatment

- Diagnosed by a healthcare provider:
 - Signs and symptoms and laboratory testing (swab in nose)
 - Travel history or contact with someone having or suspected of having COVID-19 is also important.
- No antiviral or antibiotic or specific treatment
- No vaccine

As of March 12, 2020:

- Global Situation – 125,042 cases
 - China: 80,982 cases;
 - Outside of China – 44,067 cases
 - North America:
 - United States – 1,215 cases; 36 deaths
 - Canada - 138 cases, 1 death

WHO situation reports can be accessed at:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>

CDC's report: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-in-us.html>

PHAC: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

Current Situation- Most of the world has cases

Global Map

As of 12:00 p.m. ET March 9, 2020

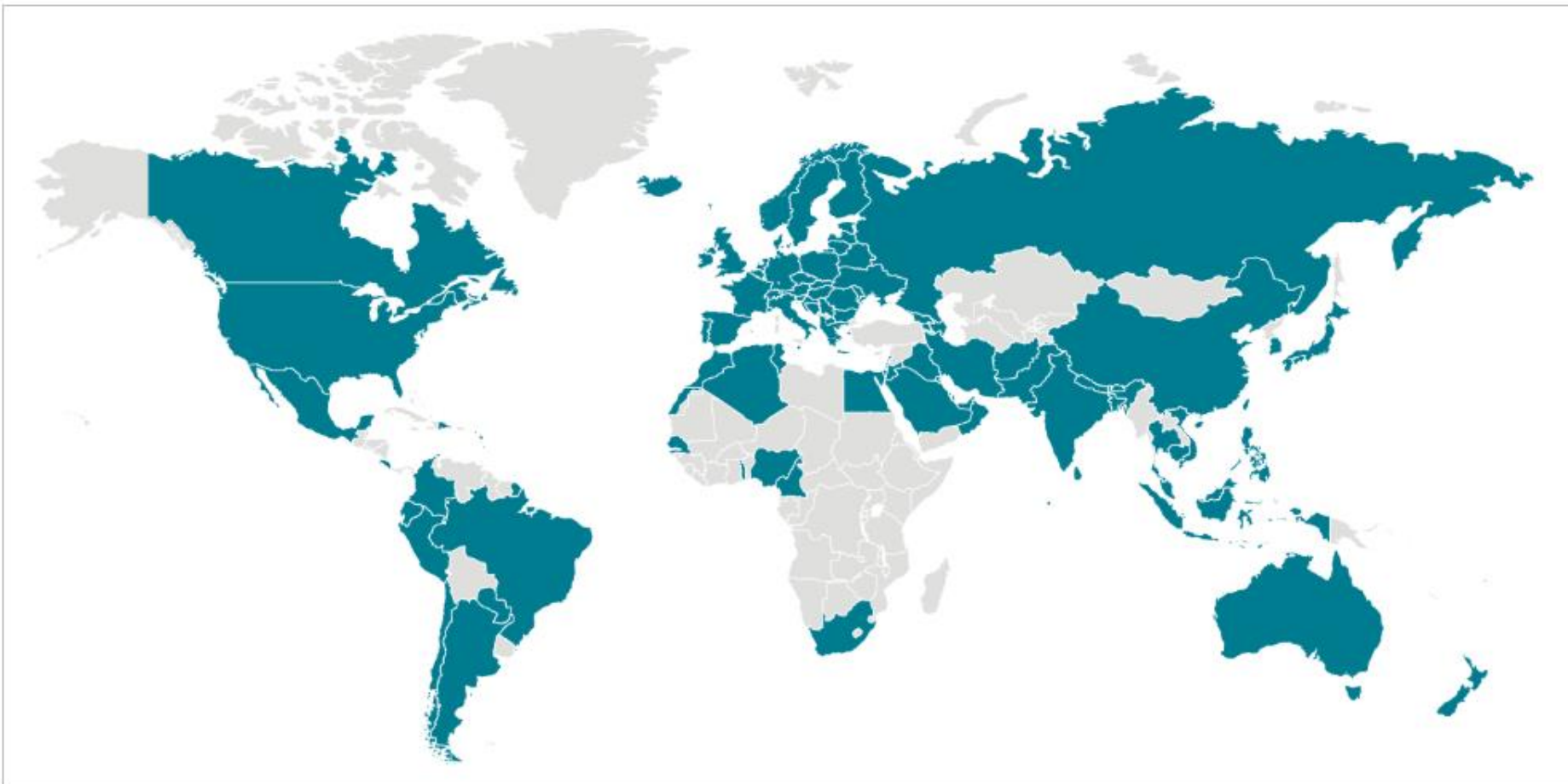
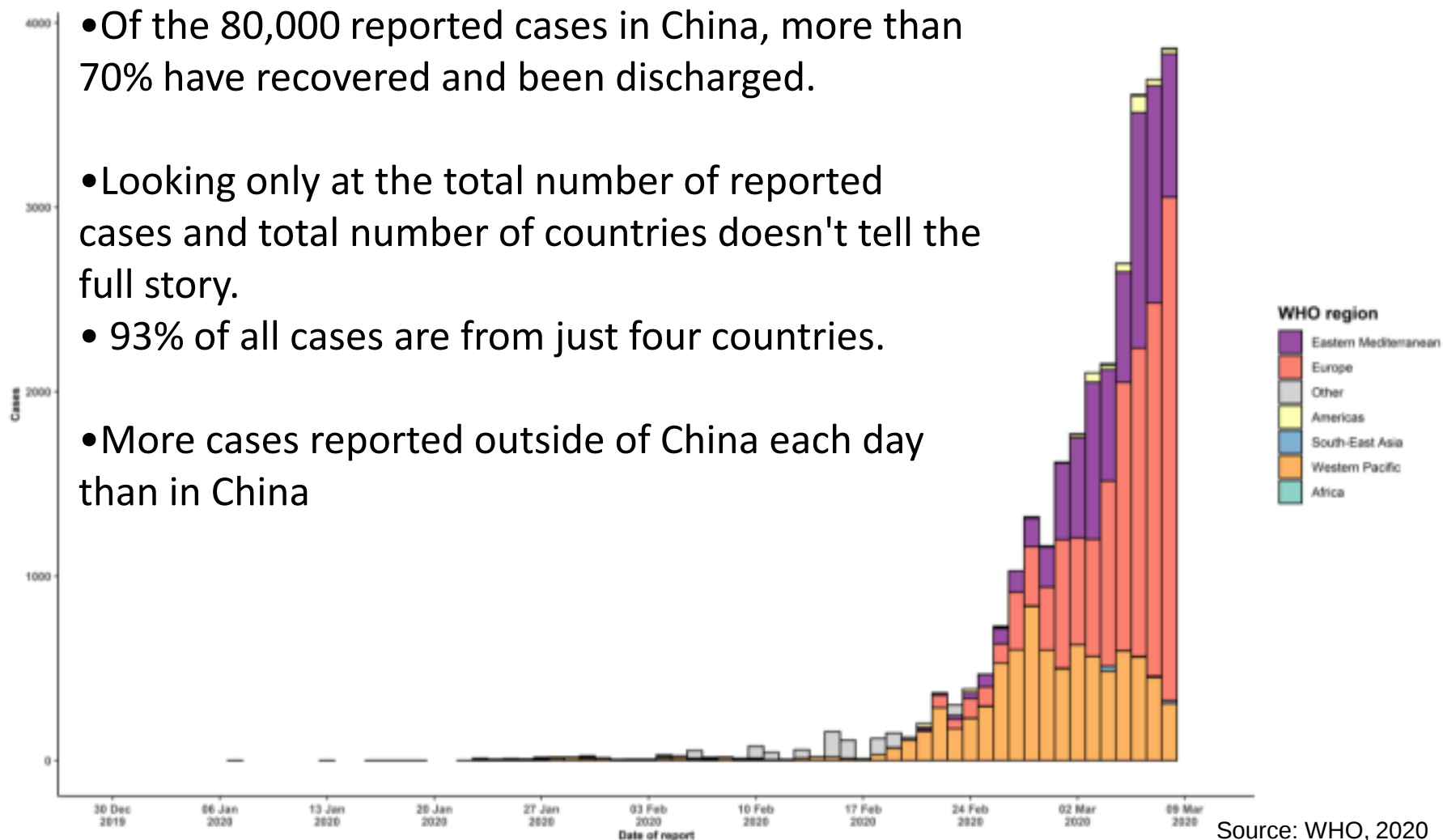


Figure 2. Epidemic curve of confirmed COVID-19 cases reported outside of China ($n=28\ 674$), by date of report and WHO region through 09 March 2020



Change in case counts in 9 days in Canada

As of March 3

30 confirmed cases in Canada.

- 20 in Ontario
- 9 in British Columbia
- 1 in Quebec

Local (Toronto) Situation

- 11 confirmed cases in Toronto
- Cases travel related or close contact
- At this time, no community spread

As of March 12

103 confirmed cases in Canada.

- 59 in Ontario
- 46 in British Columbia
- 13 PQ; 19 AB

Local (Toronto) Situation

- 33 confirmed cases in Toronto
- Cases mostly travel related or close contact
- Cases from travel to USA
- Evidence of community spread in BC

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

<https://www.toronto.ca/community-people/health-wellness-care/diseases-medications-vaccines/coronavirus/>

Roles – Federal

Responsible for:

- Determining the national case definition
- Providing national guidance for COVID-19 response
- Border security, screening, and determining quarantine
- Providing travel advice
- Liaising with global partners (e.g., World Health Organization) and other national governments
- Working with provincial partners (e.g., Ontario Ministry of Health)



**Government
of Canada**



**Public Health
Agency of Canada**



**Canada Border
Services Agency**

Roles – Provincial

Responsible for:

- Providing policy direction for healthcare sector and public health
- Gathering and monitoring data from local public health units
- Providing infection prevention and control guidance; managing supply chains
- Laboratory / testing capacity



Public
Health
Ontario

Roles – Local

Responsible for:

- Follow-up of cases and suspected cases of COVID-19
- Contact tracing and management
- Close / prolonged face to face contact
 - Household contacts
 - Assess risk at other settings like school, work, etc

Roles – Local

Responsible for:

- Active monitoring of the local and global situation
- Providing up to date, evidence informed information to the public and stakeholders (eg. hotline, webpage, media)

Current Advice – Prevention

- Prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:
 - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 15 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
 - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



Current Advice – Prevention

- Prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:
 - Stay home when you are sick.
 - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
 - Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
 - Follow routine infection prevention and control policies and procedures set out by your company or organization.



March 10th travel health notices

- Check travel restrictions and advisories from the Public Health Agency of Canada
- Information is always being updated


Government of Canada
Gouvernement du Canada

[Français](#)

MENU ▾

[Home](#) > [Travel](#) > [Travel abroad](#) > [Travel health and safety](#)

Travel health notices

Filter items

Date  	Travel health notices	Location	Level  
2020-03-10	Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Italy	Italy	Level 3
2020-03-04	Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in China	China	Level 3
2020-03-04	Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Iran	Iran	Level 3
2020-03-09	Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in South Korea	South Korea	Level 2
2020-03-02	Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Japan	Japan	Level 2

Level 2 - Practise special precautions

Travel health notices recommend that travellers practise special health precautions, such as receiving additional vaccinations. A notice at this level would be issued if there is an outbreak in a limited geographic location, a newly identified disease in the region or a change in the existing pattern of disease.

Level 3 - Avoid non-essential travel

Travel health notices include a warning to avoid non-essential travel in order to protect the health of Canadian travellers and the Canadian public. The notice outlines specific precautions to take when visiting the region and what to do if you become ill during or after travel. A notice at this level would be issued during a large-scale outbreak in a large geographic area, or if there is increased risk to the traveller and an increased risk of spreading disease to other groups including the Canadian public.

Level 4 - Avoid all travel

Advises travellers to avoid all travel in order to protect the health of the Canadian public. A notice at this level would be issued if there is a high risk of spread of disease to the general public regardless of measures taken while travelling. Avoiding travel will limit the spread of the disease in Canada and internationally.

When do we declare a Pandemic for COVID-19?

What is a pandemic?

- A pandemic is the worldwide spread of a new disease, spread person-to-person.
- No prior immunity in the population
- Impact and severity of disease is considered

Canada's pandemic goals:

1. to minimize serious illness and overall deaths
2. to minimize societal disruption among Canadians

Preparing for a Pandemic – Businesses

Business Continuity Plans

Each business should have a business continuity plan that

- identifies the organization's mandated and critical services
- ranks all services in order of priority – essential and non-essential
- identifies the internal and external effects of disruptions

Preparing for a Pandemic – Businesses Policies and Training

- Staff absenteeism
- Communication will be critical- internal and external
- Staff Education and training
- Skill set inventory
- Human resources policies
- Occupational health and safety
- Infection prevention and control measures
- Policies for working remotely

Delay and mitigate any community transmission

Non-pharmaceutical interventions

- hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and environmental cleaning in the home

Social distancing measures are approaches taken to minimize close contact with others in the community:

- quarantine and self-isolation at the
- avoiding crowding

- school measures and closures,
- workplace measures and closures,
- public/mass gathering cancellations



Risk-informed decision-making for mass gatherings during COVID-19 global outbreak

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/mass-gatherings-risk-assessment.html>

Decisions regarding mass gatherings can be considered on a continuum from:

- no changes needed
- to enhanced communication to attendees
- to risk mitigation strategies being employed without cancelling the event
- through to postponement or cancellation of the event

Complete a risk assessment. Considerations:

1. Population attending the event

- Travellers?
- Professional groups? Critical infrastructure roles?
- Vulnerable – older adults, weakened immune system
- Children – likely to spread infections
- How many people are expected to attend? - Note: total number in attendance is one factor

2. Event activities

- Activities that promote spread (eg. contact sports)

3. Crowding

- Indoors or Outdoors?
- Separate participants 2 metres apart?

4. Event duration

- How long will the event be? Overnight accommodations?
- Event resources? (eg. hand washing stations)

5. Disease and Outbreak Characteristics

New Brunswick - Gatherings of 150 or more should be postponed

Alberta's chief medical officer of health also recommended of 250 or more people in the province

BC – 250 plus

Ontario?

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

[Share](#)
[Print](#)


Toronto Public Health (TPH) is monitoring 17 positive cases of the novel coronavirus: COVID-19 in Toronto. Find out how to protect yourself, what to do if you're sick after you travel and how to recognize possible symptoms.

Last updated on March 10, 2020 at 3:55 p.m. EST.

Current situation

Toronto Public Health (TPH) is monitoring 17 positive cases of the novel coronavirus: COVID-19 in Toronto. To date, there have been four other confirmed cases reported in Toronto. All four of these people have since recovered from their illness. TPH continues to work with our provincial and federal health colleagues along with airports in response to this situation. At this time the virus is not circulating locally, however given the global circumstances, TPH is actively working with City and health partners to plan for the potential of local spread.

If you have travelled from Hubei Province, China, or Iran within the last 14 days or have had close contact with a person ill with COVID-19, please self-isolate and contact Toronto Public Health at 416-338-7600 within 24 hours of arriving in Toronto. Information about self-isolation is available in the Other Resources section below.

If you have travelled to an area under a [travel health advisory](#) for COVID-19 (other than Hubei Province or Iran) and develop symptoms of 2019 novel coronavirus infection, avoid contact with others and call your health care professional prior to visiting.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that circulate in animals including humans and may cause illness in them. Human coronaviruses are common and can range from mild illnesses such as the common cold, to severe illnesses such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (SARS CoV) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS CoV).

Find out how to protect yourself, what to do if you're sick after you travel and how to recognize possible symptoms.

Also available in: [Simplified Chinese](#) | [Farsi](#) | [French](#)

- [Read the latest Statement from Toronto's Medical Officer of Health: March 6, 2020](#) (Also available in: [Simplified Chinese](#) | [Farsi](#) | [French](#))

Contact Information

Telehealth Ontario

For medical advice, you may contact Telehealth Ontario, a free, confidential service. A Registered Nurse will take your call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
Telephone: 1-866-797-0000

Toronto Public Health Hotline

Monday to Friday
8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
(closed on statutory holidays)
Saturday and Sunday:
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Translation is available in many languages.
Telephone: 416-338-7600
TTY: 416-392-0658
Email: PublicHealth@toronto.ca

Media Inquiry

Email: TPHmedia@toronto.ca

Emergency After Hours

To report a public health emergency after hours and on statutory holidays, ask for the on-call Public Health Manager.

Other resources- TPH website

Expand All +

Collapse All —

Risk to Toronto Residents

+

Symptoms

+

How to Protect Yourself

+

Travellers Returning from Affected Areas

+

Feeling Sick After Travel

+

Treatment

+

Diagnosis and Testing

+

Statements from Toronto's Medical Officer of Health

+

Q&As

+

Other Resources

+

[Home](#) > [Health and wellness](#)

The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Learn about how the Ministry of Health is preparing for the 2019 novel coronavirus in Ontario. Find out how to protect yourself, what to do if you're sick after you travel and how to recognize possible symptoms.

[Get information in other languages](#)

On this page

1. Status of cases in Ontario
2. Coronaviruses
3. The 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19)
4. Current affected areas
5. Travellers returning from affected areas
6. Laboratory testing
7. How Ontario is preparing
8. Symptoms and treatment
9. How to protect yourself
10. Information on the 2019 novel coronavirus for health care professionals
11. Ontario news about the 2019 novel coronavirus
12. Information sheet (available in multiple languages)

Related

- [Government of Canada Travel Advisories](#)
- [Public Health Ontario](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [Poster - What you need to know to help you and your family stay healthy](#)

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus>
<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/>

We use cookies on this website to enhance your experience. You can find out more about how we use cookies [here](#)



Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

[Read more](#)

Quick Access

[Hand Hygiene](#)

[Influenza](#)

[Measles](#)

[Online Learning](#)

[Infection Prevention and Control](#)

[Laboratory Testing](#)

[COVID-19 Testing](#)

Public Health Agency of Canada – federal resources

[Français](#)



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Search Canada.ca



MENU ▾

[Home](#) > [Health](#) > [Diseases and conditions](#)

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Outbreak update

Outbreak update

[Symptoms and treatment](#)

[Prevention and risks](#)

[Being prepared](#)

[For health professionals](#)

[Canada's response](#)

[Travel advice](#)

Toronto Public Health's Hotline
For the public and stakeholders
416-338-7600

www.toronto.ca/coronavirus