



## Memo to Staff

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Subject: COVID-19 Update  
From: E. Vitale, Director Infection Prevention & Control  
Date: 2/26/2020

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The Public Health Agency of Canada has expanded its list of areas of concern for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) to include the following countries: **China, Italy, Iran, South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, and Singapore.** **Taiwan, Thailand, Macau, and Malaysia** are also noted by Sunnybrook to be areas of increased risk of COVID-19.

For the general public in Canada the health risk from COVID-19 is considered low as we are unlikely to be exposed to this virus at this time. However, more cases are likely to be identified in the coming days, including more cases in Canada, and possibly in Windsor-Essex. It's also likely that person-to-person spread will continue to occur.

For confirmed COVID-19 cases, reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death. Symptoms are similar to influenza and can include:

- fever
- cough
- shortness of breath
- sore throat
- runny nose
- myalgias (muscle pain)
- nausea
- occasionally diarrhea

At this time it is believed that the symptoms of COVID-19 may appear in as few as 2 days or as long as 14 days after exposure. This is based on what has been seen previously as the incubation period of MERS-CoV viruses.

All healthcare providers must be on the look out for possible cases of COVID-19 and continue to ask screening questions to identify those individuals that have travelled in the last 14 days and have respiratory symptoms.

Any patient presenting to Emergency that meet the case definition must be placed in **Droplet, Contact and Airborne Precautions** in a negative pressure room (or a single room if negative pressure is not available).