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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.

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Status of cases in Ontario

Every weekday at 10:30 a.m. ET, this web page will be updated with the most up-to-date information on the status of cases in Ontario.

The symptoms of the 2019 novel coronavirus, which can include fever and cough, are similar to other respiratory infections, including influenza. As a result, individuals who may simply have the flu are being tested out of an abundance of caution and in line with Ontario's robust detection protocols. This means that most individuals who are tested are unlikely to be infected with the 2019 novel coronavirus.

Negative ¹	975
Currently under investigation ²	12
Confirmed positive ³	15
Resolved ⁴	3
Total number of patients approved for COVID-19 testing to date	1005

¹Patient negative based on testing performed at Public Health Ontario (PHO) Laboratory (Note: Testing at National Microbiology Lab (NML) no longer required due to enhanced national testing protocols.)

²Test results are pending

³Patient still testing positive and has not had two consecutive negative results greater than 24 hours apart

⁴Patient is no longer infectious based on two consecutive negative tests performed at PHO Laboratory at least 24 hours apart

Last updated: March 2, 2020 at 10:30 a.m. ET

Coronaviruses

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more serious respiratory infections like bronchitis, pneumonia or severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

Coronaviruses are spread mainly from person to person through close contact, for example, in a household, workplace or health care centre.

Some human coronaviruses spread easily between people, while others do not.

Your risk of severe disease may be higher if you have a weakened immune system. This may be the case

for:

- older people
- people with chronic disease (for example, diabetes, cancer, heart, renal or chronic lung disease)

The 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19)

The 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) causes a respiratory infection that originated in Wuhan, China.

The first presumptive case of this infection in Ontario was identified on January 25, 2020.

Current affected areas

The following geographic areas are identified as affected areas:

- China (mainland)
 - Hong Kong
 - Iran
 - Italy
 - Japan
 - Singapore
 - South Korea
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Travellers returning from affected areas

Travellers who have returned from Hubei province, including Wuhan City, should:

- contact their [local public health unit](#) within 24 hours of arriving in Canada
- **stay at home and avoid close contact with others, including those in their home**, for a total of 14 days from the date they left Hubei province
- contact Telehealth Ontario at [1-866-797-0000](tel:1-866-797-0000) or their [local public health unit](#) if they experience symptoms of the 2019 novel coronavirus

Travellers who have returned from areas under a travel health advisory for COVID-19 should:

- monitor themselves for symptoms of the 2019 novel coronavirus for 14 days after leaving the affected area

contact Telehealth Ontario at [1-866-797-0000](tel:1-866-797-0000) or their [local public health unit](#) if they experience symptoms of the 2019 novel coronavirus

Learn about [travel advisories](#) related to the 2019 novel coronavirus.

Laboratory testing

Testing is being conducted at the Public Health Ontario Laboratory, which is working collaboratively with the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg.

How Ontario is preparing

Ontario is working with its partners in the health care system implementing a robust plan to monitor for, detect and, if needed, isolate any cases of the 2019 novel coronavirus. The Ministry of Health is taking several steps to ensure the health and safety of Ontarians. This includes:

- monitoring hospitals for potential cases of the virus in individuals with travel history to areas under a [travel health advisory](#) for COVID-19
 - adding the 2019 novel coronavirus as a designated disease reportable under Ontario's public health legislation, enabling local public health units to quickly and effectively take all necessary measures to investigate, complete lab tests and do case and contact management to prevent and control further spread of the infection
 - ongoing planning with federal and provincial/territorial partners and readiness to coordinate with other provinces/territories
 - meeting with hospitals, paramedics and local public health units near Pearson International Airport to provide further information on the federal border screening measures
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Symptoms and treatment

Symptoms range from mild – like the flu and other common respiratory infections – to severe, and can include:

- fever
- cough
- difficulty breathing

Complications from the 2019 novel coronavirus can include serious conditions, like pneumonia or kidney

failure, and in some cases, death.

There are no specific treatments for coronaviruses, and there is no vaccine that protects against coronaviruses. Most people with common human coronavirus illnesses will recover on their own.

You should:

- drink plenty of fluids
- get rest and sleep as much as possible
- try a humidifier or a hot shower to help with a sore throat or cough

If you need immediate medical attention you should call 911 and mention your travel history and symptoms.

How to protect yourself

Coronaviruses are spread mainly from person to person through close contact, for example, in a household, workplace or health care centre.

There is no vaccine available to protect against the 2019 novel coronavirus.

There are everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses. Take these everyday steps to reduce exposure to the virus and protect your health:

- wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- sneeze and cough into your sleeve
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- avoid contact with people who are sick
- stay home if you are sick

If you are travelling to an area known to have cases of coronavirus, be sure to avoid:

- high-risk areas such as farms, live animal markets and areas where animals may be slaughtered
- contact with animals (alive or dead), including pigs, chickens, ducks and wild birds
- surfaces with animal droppings or secretions on them

Information on the 2019 novel coronavirus for health care professionals

If you are a health care professional, learn how to protect yourself and your patients by reading our [guidance documents](#) and learning about:

- screening
 - laboratory testing
 - treatment recommendations
 - occupational health & safety and infection prevention & control measures
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Ontario news about the 2019 novel coronavirus

[News Release: Ontario Implementing Enhanced Measures to Safeguard Public from COVID-19 \(March 2, 2020\)](#)

[News Release: Ontario Confirms New Positive Cases of COVID-19 \(March 1, 2020\)](#)

[News Release: Ontario Confirms New Positive Cases of COVID-19 \(February 29, 2020\)](#)

[News Release: Ontario Confirms New Positive Case of COVID-19 \(February 28, 2020\)](#)

[News Release: Ontario Confirms Positive Case of COVID-19 \(February 28, 2020\)](#)

[News Release: Ontario Confirms Positive Case of COVID-19 \(February 27, 2020\)](#)

[News Release: Ontario Confirms Positive Case of COVID-19 \(February 26, 2020\)](#)

[News Release: Ontario Confirms Presumptive Case of COVID-19 \(February 23, 2020\)](#)

[News Release: Ontario Confirms Resolved Case of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(February 12, 2020\)](#)

[News Release: Ontario's Public Health System Keeping the Public Safe \(January 31, 2020\)](#)

[News Release: Ontario Confirms Third Case of 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(January 31, 2020\)](#)

[News Release: Ontario Government Protecting Students from Emerging Issue of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus \(January 28, 2020\)](#)

[News Release: Ontario Confirms Second Presumptive Case of Wuhan Novel Coronavirus \(January 27, 2020\)](#)

[News Release: Ontario Protecting Students from Emerging Issue of the Wuhan Novel Coronavirus](#)

[\(January 26, 2020\)](#)

[News Release: Ontario Confirms First Case of Wuhan Novel Coronavirus \(January 25, 2020\)](#)

[News release: Federal Government Increasing Measures to Monitor Wuhan Novel Coronavirus Risks at Canadian Airports, Including Pearson \(January 24, 2020\)](#)

[News release: Ontario Takes Steps to Safeguard the Health of the Public Against the Coronavirus \(January 22, 2020\)](#)

Information sheet (available in multiple languages)

The Ministry of Health has developed an information sheet about the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) to inform Ontarians about the virus, how they can protect themselves and what to do if they think they have contracted the 2019 novel coronavirus. The information sheet is available in multiple languages.

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[Tiếng Việt \(Vietnamese\)](#)

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