

# Memo

To: Health Care Providers  
From: Dr. Kieran Moore, MOH  
Date: 27 February 2020  
Re: **Update: 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

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## Updated Considerations for Risk Assessment

KFL&A Public Health recommends the following considerations when conducting a risk assessment for COVID-19:

- Maintain a high index of suspicion in returning travellers with fever and/or respiratory symptoms. The settings for international COVID-19 transmission are rapidly changing.
- At this time, beyond mainland China, some countries have established local transmission. The new Ontario case definition is as follows:
  - A person with fever and/or onset of cough or difficulty breathing **AND** any of the following within 14 days prior to onset of illness:
    - Travel to an impacted area **OR**
    - Close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19, **OR**
    - Close contact with a person with acute respiratory illness who has been to an impacted area.

As of Feb. 25, 2020, **impacted areas** include: **China, Hong Kong, Iran, Northern Italy, Japan, Singapore and South Korea**

- Given outbreaks are being reported in multiple jurisdictions, perform a careful travel history that includes healthcare settings and contact with ill persons in international settings.
- Consider COVID-19 in symptomatic returning travellers from any area under a Government of Canada [Travel Health Advisory](#) for COVID-19.
- [Johns Hopkins University](#) has created a map tracking reported cases and deaths worldwide. KFL&A Public Health recommends checking this map daily.

If you suspect an individual may be infected with COVID-19,

- Contact KFL&A Public Health (613.549.1232 ext 2300, afterhours 613.506.3100) to report the suspect case and discuss the most appropriate setting for testing.
- Primary care may perform testing provided the practitioner is able to safely use an N95 respirator. See the PHO website for [testing information](#).

### IPAC practices

- All primary care settings should follow routine infection prevention and control practices plus droplet and contact precautions.
- All settings should use both active screening (asking questions) and passive screening (signage) of patients for 2019-nCoV.

### Resources

- Public Health Ontario – [Infection Prevention and Control for Clinical Office Practice, Best Practices for Prevention of Transmission of Acute Respiratory Infection in All Health Care Settings.](#)
- [KFL&A Public Health Novel Coronavirus – www.kflaph.ca/coronavirus](http://www.kflaph.ca/coronavirus)
- [Ministry of health and Long-Term Care: Novel Coronavirus – www.ontario.ca/coronavirus](http://www.ontario.ca/coronavirus)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada: 2019 novel coronavirus: Outbreak update](#)
- [Ontario College of Family Physicians Novel Coronavirus: Tips for Family Doctors](#)

Please see the following page for a suggested screening algorithm.

For more frequent updates and situation reports please contact [communications@kflaph.ca](mailto:communications@kflaph.ca) to join our distribution list.

Kind regards,



## Screening Algorithm for COVID-19

