

## MEMORANDUM

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Date: January 29, 2020

To: All Staff, BC Corrections and Correctional Health Services

From: CHS Infection Control Committee

Subject: Health screening for novel Coronavirus

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The situation regarding novel coronavirus (named 2019-nCoV) – a respiratory pneumonia-like disease that was first reported in Wuhan, China – continues to evolve.

Today, BC's Provincial Health Officer (PHO) Dr. Bonnie Henry announced that a Lower Mainland male has tested positive for the coronavirus. You can [read more here](#).

Despite the increase in the number of cases world-wide, the risk to Canadians continues to be low. That said, we must continue to be prepared and stay vigilant for possible cases.

1. Travelers who have visited Hubei Province (where Wuhan City is located; note, a change beyond Wuhan City) within 14 days but who have NO symptoms should be provided with information on signs and symptoms of acute respiratory illness/pneumonia, and advised to notify Correctional Health Services or BC Corrections Staff if they develop symptoms of acute respiratory illness/pneumonia. These symptoms include, but are not limited to, fever, dry cough, sore throat, and headache.



2. If Correctional Health Staff or BC Corrections Staff identify a traveler who has visited Hubei Province within 14 days, but is in an immigration hold, or is being taken into custody, the staff should monitor closely for acute respiratory illness/pneumonia. The client should be advised to notify Correctional health or BC Corrections Staff if they develop symptoms of acute respiratory illness/pneumonia.
3. If an acute respiratory illness/pneumonia develops, Correctional Health Staff will liaise with BC Corrections Staff about placement. The client should be placed in a single-occupancy room as soon as possible with **droplet** and **contact** precautions (hand hygiene, surgical mask, eye protection, gown, gloves) for all interactions (N95 masks are not routinely recommended).
4. A gown is not required if BC Corrections Staff are **not** within a 2 meter radius of the affected client. If staff are within a 2 meter radius of an affected client and potentially have direct contact then they should use the same personal protective equipment noted above.
5. Affected clients should also be encouraged to wear a surgical mask for all interactions. This will mitigate the risk of transmission.
6. Once a client has been identified as having travelled to Hubei Province and has an acute respiratory illness/pneumonia, **droplet** and **contact** precautions should be maintained until 2019-nCoV has been ruled out.

To protect yourself and others, follow proper hygiene etiquette during the cold and flu season, including hand hygiene (alcohol based hand rub or washing with soap and water), covering your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing (use a tissue and put your used tissue in a waste basket or if you don't have a tissue use your upper sleeve, not your hands), and staying home when sick.

It should be emphasized that clients who do not have any respiratory symptoms and have not travelled to Hubei Province within the last 14 days, pose no risk to staff/visitors.

For the latest information, please visit the following links:

BCCDC updates: [www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/data-reports/communicable-diseases/emerging-respiratory-virus-updates](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/data-reports/communicable-diseases/emerging-respiratory-virus-updates)

Public Health Agency of Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus.html>

Government of Canada Travel Advisory: <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories/pneumonia-china>

World Health Organization: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>