

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Fact Sheet 2

Q: What is the current update on COVID-19?

A: It is now believed that COVID-19 is in the community meaning that it is not only those who have traveled that are passing the virus, but potentially our friends and neighbours. This was expected and is what has happened in most other countries with the virus. [Currently to date](#), Ontario has 180 confirmed cases, 5 resolved cases and only 1 death.

Q: How is COVID-19 contracted?

A: It is still believed that COVID-19 is spread through direct contact and respiratory droplets. Majority of cases have been linked to person-to-person transmission or close contact with a person in the incubation period, who was later confirmed to have COVID-19.

Q: I have not been mask fit tested by Safehaven, am I safe?

A: Ontario Public Health provided new recommendations ([March 12, 2020](#)) regarding recommendations for care for patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19.

Droplet/Contact precautions are recommended for routine care of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. This directive was not unexpected and is based on available evidence supporting droplet and contact transmission ⁽¹⁻⁵⁾. Enhances Droplet/Contact precautions is recommended for aerosol-generating medical procedures (AGMP). We are working with the ministry to gain access to N95 masks as soon as possible and will start testing once received.

Q: How do I protect myself, my family or the clients I care for?

A: For prevention, the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to recommend the continuation of routine infection control practices including:

- *Hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.*
- *Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water is not available.*
- *Stay at home if you are sick, and avoid contact with those who are ill when possible.*
- *Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing with a tissue or sleeve.*
- *Disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.*

In addition, please stay at home if you are sick or feeling unwell, practice social distancing when possible, and avoid touching your eyes nose and mouth.



Q: What screening practices are being put in places?

A: Effective as of Friday March 13, 2020 all Safehaven locations have been asked to conduct enhanced screening for ANYONE entering the building (staff, family, visitors, contractors – anyone). Additionally, all CCC's have been provided with an updated laminated door signage indicating that anyone entering the building will be screened for infectious symptoms, recent travel, and exposure to COVID.

Q: My family is returning home from a trip, what do I do?

A: We are so happy to hear your family is home, or coming home safe! The government is recommending and asking that those returning home from international travel self-isolate if they are able. Should they be experiencing any infectious symptoms, please review the recommendations from Toronto Public Health to lean [who needs to be tested](#) at a testing center (and their locations and hours of operation). Other helpful resources include how to [self-isolate for travellers with symptoms](#) and those [without symptoms](#). If this is a family member you live with, please let your CCC know and we will evaluate your need for isolation if they develop symptoms on a case to case base.

Q: Travel questions - What are the countries of concern? How will I know if these change?

A: Countries of concern are areas with a significant risk of transmission of COVID-19. This will change as new cases are identified. At this time, these countries include: *China, France, Iran, Italy, South Korea, Spain, UK and in the US, the states of New York and Washington.* These locations are regularly being updated and are informed by the Toronto Public Health, the Ministry of Health Ontario, and our partnership with the Hospital for Sick Children. Regardless of what countries you returned from, you will be screened and a decision regarding your isolation will be made on a case to case bases.

Q: Where can I find the most up to date information from Safehaven on COVID-19?

A: As of tomorrow, March 18, 2020 there will be a folder available in the P Drive in a COVID-19 folder. We will be updating the folder regularly. In addition, please continue to check, and read your email regularly as things are changing rapidly.



References

1. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Risk Assessment: Outbreak of acute respiratory syndrome associated with a novel coronavirus, China: first local transmission in the EU/EEA – third update [Internet]. Stockholm: ECDC; 2020 [cited 2020 Feb 12]. Available from: <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/risk-assessment-outbreak-acuterespiratory-syndrome-associated-novel-1>
2. Chan, J. F. W., Yuan, S., Kok K.H., To, K.K., Chu, H., Yang, J., et al. (2020). A familial cluster of pneumonia associated with the 2019 novel coronavirus indicating person-to-person transmission: a study of a family cluster. *The Lancet*, 395(10223) 514-23. Available from: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)30154-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)30154-9/fulltext)
3. Burke, R. M., Midgley, C. M., Dratch, A., Fenstersheib, M., Haupt, T., Holshue, M., et al. (2020). Active monitoring of persons exposed to patients with confirmed COVID-19 — United States, January–February 2020. *MMWR Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 69:245-46. Available from: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6909e1.htm?s_cid=mm6909e1_w
4. Huang, R., Xia, J., Chen, Y., Shan, C., & Wu, C. (2020). A family cluster of SARS-CoV-2 infection involving 11 patients in Nanjing, China. *The Lancet Infectious Disease*, [Epub ahead of print]. Available from: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(20\)30147-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(20)30147-X/fulltext)
5. Yu, P., Zhu, J., Zhang, Z., Han, Y., & Huang, L. (2020). A familial cluster of infection associated with the 2019 novel coronavirus indicating potential person-to-person transmission during the incubation period. *The Journal of Infectious Disease*, [Epub ahead of print]. Available from: <https://academic.oup.com/jid/advance-article/doi/10.1093/infdis/jiaa077/5739751>

