

Novel coronavirus Factsheet: (prepared by AMSSA in the interest of its members) Date: February 13, 2020

According to the BC Centre for Disease Control, a new coronavirus is the cause of an outbreak of respiratory infections, now known as COVID-19 or 2019-nCoV. The number of cases worldwide is changing quickly. B.C. has confirmed cases of coronavirus; however, the risk to Canada continues to be low.

How Do I Protect Myself and Others?

Follow and encourage others to follow the same advice that public health officials recommend for the cold and flu season:

- ✓ wash your hands often with soap and water,
- ✓ cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing,
- ✓ avoid others who are unwell, and stay home when you are sick.



- As of February 13, 2020, and until further notice, Government of Canada has advised to:
- Avoid non-essential travel to China
 - Avoid all travel to Hubei Province (see the resources section for more information)

What are the Symptoms?

Symptoms for 2019-nCoV include:

- ✓ fever,
- ✓ cough and
- ✓ difficulty breathing

If you have traveled to the affected area of Hubei Province, China, and develop these symptoms, disclose it to a CBSA officer upon landing.

If you develop symptoms within 14 days of landing or have been in contact with a confirmed case or a traveler returning from the affected area with these symptoms, avoid contact with others and contact a health-care provider.

How is it Transmitted?

Currently, health experts believe that coronavirus **can** be transmitted if large infected droplets (generated when a person sneezes or coughs) comes in contact with surfaces of the eye, nose, or mouth.

Currently, health experts believe that coronavirus **cannot** be transmitted through airborne transmission which occurs when smaller evaporated droplets or dust particles containing the microorganism float in the air for long periods of time and people breathe the microorganism into their throat or lungs.

Travelling to and From China?

Students and families considering travel to and from China are encouraged to consult the Government of Canada Travel and Tourism site regularly: <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/health-safety/travel-health-notices/210>

Other Resources:

- For most up-to-date information from BC Centre for Disease Control, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>
- For most up-to-date information from Government of Canada, visit: Canada.ca/coronavirus
- Canadians can also contact the new coronavirus information line at: 1-833-784-4397
- Canadians travelling abroad are encouraged to consult travel.gc.ca regularly
- For most up-to-date travel advisory to China, visit: <https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/china>

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