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Update #1 on novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) from China

The situation regarding 2019-nCoV has been evolving rapidly as new cases are being detected and control measures implemented in many countries. There is now evidence of human-to-human transmission. Cases continue to be found in a number of regions in China as well as several countries including two related cases reported this week in Ontario. Some screening measures have been implemented for travelers arriving at Canadian airports.

Recommended Information Sources

The BC Centre for Disease Control has established a public webpage with up to date information at: <http://www.bccdc.ca/about/news-stories/stories/2020/information-on-novel-coronavirus>

Physicians and other healthcare providers are advised to review the BCCDC's page for up to date recommendations regarding case identification, diagnostic testing and other relevant information.

In addition, clinical bulletins aimed at physicians/nurse practitioners will be published by the BCCDC on a regular basis at:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/data-reports/communicable-diseases/emerging-respiratory-virus-updates>

For information about the global situation, the World Health Organization is publishing regular updates at: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

Identification of Potential Cases

1. The Provincial Health Officer of BC confirms that 2019-nCoV is a reportable condition under the Public Health Act in BC and any suspect cases (including anyone for whom testing is requested) must be reported to the local MHO.
2. To facilitate early detection and containment, clinicians in British Columbia should notify their local Medical Health Officer **as soon as possible** about patients presenting with:
 - Fever AND acute respiratory illness, with or without pneumonia AND
 - Recent travel to **Hubei Province (includes Wuhan City), China** within 14 days prior to symptom onset OR
 - Another potential relevant exposure (e.g. close contact with someone who was ill and had recently travelled to **Hubei Province, includes Wuhan City, China**)

After hours please call the MHO on call line at 1-800-204-6166. If the patient is at an acute care facility, also contact Infection Prevention and Control, and the Island Health Medical Microbiologist.

As always, patients presenting with severe acute respiratory illness (SARI) without known etiology and with a history of travel anywhere within the 14 days prior to illness onset should also be notified to the local Medical Health Officer.

3. Patients under investigation should be managed with **contact and droplet precautions** (including eye protection); additional precautions including N95 respirators with eye protection should be used during aerosol-generating procedures (e.g. open suctioning of respiratory tract, intubation, bronchoscopy, cardiopulmonary resuscitation).
 - **PLEASE NOTE:** the attached guidelines from the Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia (PICNet) reinforce that nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs and throat swabs can be performed using contact and droplet precautions with surgical mask and eye protection, and do not require the use of an N95 respirator.

Patients with general inquiries about 2019-nCoV can be directed to the BCCDC website as above, or to 8-1-1. People planning to travel abroad, particularly to China, should be directed to the Health Canada travel alerts page (travel.gc.ca).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dee Hoyano".

Dee Hoyano, MD, FRCPC, CCFP
Medical Health Officer