

Frequently Asked Questions

as taken from the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit website:

<https://www.wechu.org/z-health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019>

“What is 2019 Novel Coronavirus (Wuhan, China)?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe disease. The 2019 Novel Coronavirus, or 2019-nCoV, is different from the other types of coronaviruses. It was first identified in Wuhan, China and is causing severe disease that is responsible for more than 4500 cases and 106 deaths worldwide (as of January 28, 2020).

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms range from mild to severe respiratory illness including fever, cough, difficulty breathing and pneumonia.

Who is at risk for 2019 Novel Coronavirus?

The risk of being exposed to the 2019-nCoV in Windsor and Essex County is **low**. You may have come into contact with the 2019 Novel Coronavirus if you:

Travelled to Wuhan, China, or anywhere in the province of Hubei, China.

OR

Had close contact with a person who has travelled to Wuhan/Hubei province and is sick with fever, cough, or difficulty breathing.

If you develop fever, cough, or difficulty breathing within 14 days of travel, avoid contact with others and call your health care provider or the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit at 519-258-2146, ext.1420. Tell them of your symptoms and that you were travelling in Wuhan, China.

24/7 Help by phone –Telehealth: 1-866-797-0000

How do I protect myself and my family?

There are number of respiratory viruses that are circulating in the community. In the absence of a confirmed case of 2019-nCoV in our community, you are more likely to contract Influenza than the 2019-nCoV. The precautions to protect yourself against 2019-nCoV the same as those used to protect against common respiratory illnesses, such as the flu. There is currently no vaccine to prevent 2019-nCoV.

Members of the public are advised to take the usual measures to reduce the risk of transmission of respiratory illness, which include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are ill.
- Stay home when you are ill.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then immediately throw the tissue in the garbage and wash your hands. If you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve or arm.
- Clean and disinfect objects and surfaces that are frequently touched.

Should I be wearing a mask?

At this point in time, there is no need to wear any mask unless you are symptomatic or taking care of a suspect case of 2019-nCoV. It is recommended that you follow usual health precautions above and follow the instructions provided by health care facilities.

Am I at risk for novel coronavirus from a package or products shipping from China?

There is still a lot that is unknown about the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and how it spreads. In general, because of poor survivability of coronaviruses on surfaces, there is likely very low risk of spread from products or packaging that are shipped over a period of days or weeks at ambient temperatures.

Coronaviruses are generally thought to be spread most often by respiratory droplets. Currently there is no evidence to support transmission of 2019-nCoV associated with imported goods and there have not been any cases of 2019-nCoV in Canada associated with imported goods.”

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