

COVID-19 Update

(coronavirus)



**Avon Maitland
District School Board**
Engage, Inspire, Innovate... Always Learning

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Information for Families

On December 31, 2019, a cluster of cases of pneumonia was reported in Wuhan, China, and the cause has been confirmed as a new coronavirus that has not previously been identified in humans. This virus is now known as the novel coronavirus or 2019-nCoV.

Huron Perth Public Health has indicated that the risk to Ontarians and our residents remains low at this time but that the level of risk is continually being reassessed as new information becomes available. They are working with the Ministry of Health, Health Canada, and local partners and stakeholders to monitor the situation.

As with any flu and cold season, the importance of reducing the spread of infections is very important, especially among school-aged children. To reduce exposure to and transmission of a range of illnesses, including coronaviruses, everyone should take the following health precautions:

- Get a yearly influenza vaccination, available from clinics and pharmacies (for flu only);
- Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze;
- If you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve or arm; and
- If you or your family members are ill, stay home.

Huron Perth Public Health is recommending that if you have travelled to Hubei province in China and develop symptoms of novel coronavirus infection, avoid contact with others, stay home (self-isolate), call your healthcare provider. Tell your healthcare provider:

- Your symptoms
- Where you have been travelling or living
- If you have had direct contact with animals (for example: visited a live animal market)
- If you have had close contact with a sick person, especially if they have had a fever, cough or difficulty breathing.

Common symptoms include fever, cough and respiratory symptoms, and difficulty breathing. Schools are also taking additional cleaning precautions in order to help prevent the spread of infections.

For more information, residents are advised to seek information from credible sources, including:

- Huron Perth Public Health: www.hpph.ca/coronavirus or call 1-888-221-2133
- Ministry of Health: www.ontario.ca/coronavirus (this page will be updated at 10:30am every morning)
- Public Health Agency of Canada:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>