



## Frequently Asked Questions for Lakeridge Health Clinical Teams Novel Coronavirus

January 31, 2020 version

### **Novel coronavirus**

#### **What is the current status of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)?**

The bulk of cases continue to be reported in Wuhan, China but have started to spread across China with unprecedented quarantine measures in place. Multiple cases have now been exported outside of China, but no sustained transmission has been documented.

As of January 31, there have been three confirmed cases of novel coronavirus in Ontario. According to health officials the first confirmed case, a man who had travelled to Wuhan, China, is in stable condition at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. The second confirmed case, his wife, is asymptomatic and at home in self-isolation. The third case confirmed today, a woman, is in isolation at home in London, Ontario.

On January 31, the MOH reported that 17 people in Ontario are under investigation or being tested for the novel coronavirus.

For up to date information, please see resources from the Ministry of Health [MOH Coronavirus website](#) or the Public Health Agency of Canada [PHAC](#).

### **Lakeridge Health's preparations**

#### **How is Lakeridge Health preparing for novel coronavirus?**

In response to the emerging respiratory infections and seasonal influenza, Lakeridge Health has robust screening and infection prevention and control procedures already in place that all team members adhere to.

Lakeridge Health has been working closely with the Ministry of Health (MOH), and the Ontario Hospital Association on provincial readiness. Information to support the provincial response is circulated through Emergency Management Ontario's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to ensure consistent, coordinated communications and information throughout the province.

Lakeridge Health also has been developing and coordinating a local response with our partners including Durham Region Health Department, EMS, and community providers.

Over the past several weeks, Lakeridge Health mobilized its Emerging Disease Working Group with experts such as Dr. Dan Ricciuto, along with other key leaders from our Infection Prevention and Control teams leading our organizational and regional responses. This Working Group has reviewed organizational processes, procedures and emergency preparedness for all

areas across Lakeridge Health to ensure the organization is as fully prepared as possible should a person with a suspected case of novel coronavirus present at any of our locations.

Lakeridge Health has a recently updated pandemic plan, and already has a deeply embedded culture of safety that includes robust processes for screening, personal protection and precautions.

As part of our response preparations, the Working Group continues to review business continuity plans across the organization and supply chain management activities to ensure that adequate supplies of all equipment necessary, including masks and other Personal Protective Equipment, is available to keep everyone safe when caring for patients in isolation.

It is important for all team members to use our equipment supplies appropriately to ensure we maintain a safe and adequate stock for our caregivers.

Team members are reminded that stockpiling supplies is prohibited and that N95 masks are to be used by the Lakeridge Health team and patients only and are not to be taken home or used off site.

To help prepare the Lakeridge Health community, all team members are receiving regular information and communications updates. A dedicated [Coronavirus WAVE page](#) has been created so that all the information that the team needs to stay safe, including how to report a communicable disease, the proper protocols for masks and PPE, and other IPAC guidelines and procedures, is available in one convenient location.

A [Lakeridge Health Novel Coronavirus web page](#) provides key information and communications for patients, families, the public and health care providers.

### **What is our screening procedure for novel coronavirus?**

All patients coming to our emergency departments and clinics are screened for symptoms of respiratory illness and asked about their travel history to identify if they meet the current criteria for a person at risk of novel coronavirus.

Patients are at risk of novel coronavirus if they meet one or more of the following:

- have traveled to an at-risk country within 14 days;
- have had close contact with a confirmed or probable case of novel coronavirus; or
- have had close contact with a person with respiratory illness who has been to Wuhan, China within 14 days prior to becoming ill.

For more information please refer to the Ministry of Health's Case Definition 2019 on the [Coronavirus WAVE page](#).

If the patient meets the criteria for novel coronavirus, the patient and their accompanying family members/caregivers are immediately relocated to a negative pressure isolation room and provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

All members of the team entering the isolation room wear PPE - N95 mask, visor/eye shield, gown and gloves.

If a physician identifies a suspected case of coronavirus be identified, test samples to confirm coronavirus are sent to the Public Health Ontario Laboratory and the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML).

Any individual with symptoms remains in isolation until test results are confirmed. Anyone who is asymptomatic may be discharged home, where they will be monitored by public health if required.

### **What is the current Personal Protective Equipment requirements for this virus?**

Lakeridge Health continues with our regular IPAC Personal Protective Equipment – Policy and Procedures that we routinely follow.

IPAC is responsible for determining the appropriate use of masks in any and all circumstances.

If you have questions about the appropriate use of a mask in any circumstance call IPAC on-call through locating immediately for clarification).

A reminder that N95 masks belong to Lakeridge Health teams and taking N95 masks home or using them outside of Lakeridge Health locations is strictly prohibited.

### **Negative pressure rooms**

Following standard procedures, Engineering has tested the negative pressure rooms and confirmed that they are all in proper working order. Negative pressure rooms are tested on a monthly schedule.

If a patient requires a negative pressure room, please continue to follow current practices and work with the Operations Supervisor and Bed Allocation Team Members to coordinate access.

For an inventory of the current locations and number of pressure rooms, please see the document, Airborne Isolation Room Assessment Organization Wide for Lakeridge Health (also attached).

### **Supplies and capacity**

The Emerging Diseases Working Group continues to review business continuity plans across the organization and supply chain management activities to ensure that adequate supplies of all equipment necessary including masks and other Personal Protective Equipment are available to keep everyone safe when caring for patients in isolation.

It is important for all team members to use our stock of equipment appropriately. Team members are reminded that there is to be no stockpiling of supplies.

The organization has contingencies in place should we require additional capacity to respond to potential cases of novel coronavirus.

### **Preventing novel coronavirus**

#### **What can I do to prevent novel coronavirus?**

To keep current on standard IPAC practices, including enhanced screening, PPE and isolation, please visit the novel coronavirus page on the Coronavirus WAVE page and/or review daily memos sent via e-mail.

While we are confident in the organizational and regional planning efforts, it is important that all of us take the steps necessary to support safe practice to protect ourselves and patients.

Please follow Routine Practices, which includes the 4 moments of hand hygiene, a risk assessment and appropriate PPE use for EVERY patient. Any patient with febrile respiratory illness should be managed on Droplet/Contact Precautions (mask with visor, gown and gloves).

- Ensure adherence with Airborne, Droplet, and Contact precautions for patients with suspected 2019-nCoV:
  - Perform hand hygiene as you enter the patient environment
  - Don your gown
  - Don a fit-tested N95 mask and perform a seal test every time
  - Apply eye protection (goggles or face shield)
  - Don your gloves
  - Doff PPE in the correct order: Remove gloves, remove gown, perform hand hygiene, remove eye protection, remove N95 respirator, perform hand hygiene
  - Get your flu shot! The flu shot remains available in the Occupational Health, Safety, Healthy Workplace (OHSHW) clinic at each site. To arrange please email [ohnurses@lh.ca](mailto:ohnurses@lh.ca) or call ext. 33710. If you've had your flu shot and have not yet advised OHSHW of this, please provide the date and location of vaccination to [ohnurses@lh.ca](mailto:ohnurses@lh.ca). This is especially important given the overlap in influenza season and 2019-nCoV.
- N95 Mast Fit Testing is mandatory for all Lakeridge Health team members. All team members should be up to date with testing. The N95 Mask Fit Test is valid for two years from the date of testing. Arrange to attend N95 fit testing if your test is over two years old. Additional resources are currently assigned at each site to provide accessibility to you. Find the [site schedule for fit testing here.](#)

If you are ill with a potential communicable illness, including respiratory illness, please try to arrange alternative coverage. For guidance on return to work or if you plan to travel to China, or have just returned from China (even stop-overs), please contact Occupational Health at 905-576-8711 extension 33710 or at [ohnurses@lh.ca](mailto:ohnurses@lh.ca) for further guidance.

### **How do I update my N95 Mast Fit Test?**

N95 Mast Fit Testing is mandatory for all Lakeridge Health team members. All team members should be up to date with testing.

- Arrange to attend N95 fit testing if your test is over two years old. Additional resources are currently assigned at each site to provide accessibility to you. Find the [site schedule for fit testing here.](#)
- Ensure availability of your N95 respirator – please speak with department leadership to resolve any accessibility issues.
- Ensure you are clean shaven with under 24 hours of facial hair growth to ensure a safe fit. If you have facial hair it must be shaved for your N95 fit test. Additionally, you must be prepared to shave immediately if required during your hospital shift.

## **More information about the clinical presentation and testing process**

### **Clinical presentation of patients with potential novel coronavirus**

Clinical syndromes associated with coronaviruses include uncomplicated illness (cold-like symptoms) to severe pneumonia and acute respiratory diseases (ARDS). Initial reports of patients presenting with 2019-nCov show that the majority of patients had fever and cough with about half of patients having shortness of breath, myalgia, and fatigue. Although travel history is reviewed at triage, it is a best practice to review travel history, including contacts that may have travelled, for any patient presenting with a febrile illness. Current case definitions are available here.

### **Clinical Management**

As of now, management of 2019-nCoV is supportive care. Non-invasive ventilation, such as BiPap or high-flow oxygen (OptiFlow), should be avoided in suspected cases. Patients should be in an airborne isolation room and all staff are to wear PPE (N95, face shield, gown, gloves) for any patient care.

### **Testing Algorithm**

Should a suspected case of coronavirus be identified, test samples to confirm coronavirus are sent to the Public Health Ontario Laboratory and the National Microbiology Laboratory (NML). Any individual with symptoms remains in isolation until test results are confirmed. Anyone who is asymptomatic may be discharged home, where they will be monitored by public health if required.

Details on testing at Lakeridge Health are available in Step 3 of the Hot Zone First Steps document.

## **Staying informed**

### **Where do I get current information about coronavirus preparations and response for Lakeridge Health?**

Please check or daily updates from Leslie Motz, VP, Clinical Services and Chief Nursing Executive and Dr. Dan Ricciuto, Chief and Medical Director, Quality and Patient Experience, Medical Director, Infection Prevention and Control and Antimicrobial Stewardship Occupational Health and Safety.

These updates can be discussed at huddles and shared at nursing stations and in other team areas.

Visit Lakeridge Health's dedicated Coronavirus WAVE page for all the information that the team needs to stay safe, including how to report a communicable disease, proper mask protocols and other IPAC guidelines and procedures.

The Lakeridge Health Novel Coronavirus web page also includes key information and communications for patients, families, the public and health care providers.

The Ministry of Health's Coronavirus website is also a good source of up-to-date information about the situation and guidance for health care providers and the public - MOH Novel Coronavirus website.

**What do I tell patients and visitors?**

It is important to reassure patients and families that all Lakeridge Health services, programs and clinics continue to operate as per normal and that our hospitals are safe for visitors and patients.

Please tell them that, as part of our preparedness for flu season, we have strong screening and infection control procedures in place that all team members must follow.

Use our usual messages about the importance of regular handwashing to protect themselves and others from infectious diseases. Ask patients and visitors to advise a health care team member if they have symptoms associated with febrile respiratory illness including fever and cough, shortness of breath, myalgia, and fatigue.