



MEMORANDUM

TO: To HHS Leadership and Physicians

FROM: Infection Prevention and Control, Dr. Dominik Mertz

RE: Pneumonia related to Novel Coronavirus-Wuhan (nCov), China

DATE: January 21, 2020

We are continuing to monitor the situation regarding a cluster of cases of pneumonia in Wuhan, China.

The risk of potential case to develop in Canada is still considered low at this point, but given the **now known human-to-human transmissions** and confirmed cases outside of China, the risk for Canadian Hospitals has increased over the last couple of weeks.

Therefore, it is important that we remain vigilant and are pro-actively screening for patients potentially infected with this novel virus. **Patients at any point of entry into our system must be screened for respiratory viruses and a travel history to Wuhan, China, or in contact with someone with the novel coronavirus from Wuhan in the last 14 days.** If anyone entering our hospital system meets the above criteria, they should be managed in Airborne/Droplet/Contact Precautions in a negative pressure Airborne Infection Isolation Room. This is an evolving situation and screening criteria may need to be changed later this week.

Our Infection Prevention and Control team is monitoring the situation in collaboration with Public Health Ontario and other provincial and federal agencies. Health Canada Travel Advisory are posted on the [Infection Prevention and Control Website](#) along with updated information as it is received from our partners.

Please share with staff and if there are further questions, do not hesitate to contact your Infection Control Practitioner via paging.