Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

This update is current as of 3:00 p.m. on the date it was posted.

This document is a collation of resources for your reference. For official guidance on COVID-19 in Ontario, please visit the Ministry of Health website.

Public Health Agencies

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) | canada.ca/en/public-health

- **2019 novel coronavirus: outbreak update** [03-19-2020]
  - As of **March 19, 2020**, 736 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Canada. Nine people have died of COVID-19.

- **Prime Minister announces more support for workers and businesses through Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan** [03-18-2020]

- **Bank of Canada asks retailers to continue accepting cash** [03-18-2020]

- **Resources for Canadian businesses: COVID-19** [03-18-2020]

- **Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Travel advice** [updated 03-19-2020]
  - To limit the spread of COVID-19, the Government of Canada advises that you **avoid all non-essential travel outside of Canada** until further notice.

- **Canadian Food Inspection Agency update concerning COVID-19** [03-17-2020]

- **COVID-19 information:** 1-833-784-4397

World Health Organization (WHO) | who.int

- **WHO Director-General’s opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 – 19 March 2020** [03-19-2020]
  - “My focus on [diagnostics and PPE] is because, as you know, there is a flow of requests from many countries, and to show that we’re doing our best, but the shortages will continue to be a challenge.”

- **Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation report – 58** [03-18-2020]

- **Population-based age-stratified seroepidemiological investigation protocol for COVID-19 virus infection** [03-17-2020]

- **Home care for patients with COVID-19 presenting with mild symptoms and management of their contacts** [03-17-2020]

- **Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) press briefings** [audio posted first; transcripts posted later]

- **Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) dashboard** [updated regularly]
  - Total cases: 10,442; Total deaths: 150; Jurisdictions reporting: 54 (50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and US Virgin Islands) Note: [page] will be updated regularly at noon Mondays through Fridays. Numbers close out at 4 p.m. the day before reporting.

Caring for someone at home [03-18-2020]

Older adults [03-18-2020]

COVID-19: What people with HIV should know [03-18-2020]

FAQs about hand hygiene for healthcare personnel [03-18-2020]

Communication resources for travelers [03-18-2020]

If you are at higher risk [03-18-2020]

Prepare to care for COVID-19: get your practice ready [03-18-2020]

COVID-19 in a long-term care facility — King County, Washington, February 27–March 9, 2020 [03-18-2020]


Coronavirus and travel in the United States [03-17-2020]

Interim guidelines for collecting, handling, and testing clinical specimens from persons for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) [03-17-2020]

Strategies for optimizing supply of N95 respirators [03-17-2020]

Strategies for optimizing the supply of PPE [03-17-2020]

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA focuses on safety of regulated products while scaling back domestic inspections [03-18-2020]

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA issues a guidance on conducting clinical trials during the pandemic [03-18-2020]

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA provides more regulatory relief during outbreak, continues to help expedite availability of diagnostics [03-16-2020]

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: FDA issues diagnostic emergency use authorization to Hologic and LabCorp [03-16-2020]

Situation update for the EU/EEA, and the UK
  - As of 19 March 2020, 82,869 cases and 4,049 deaths have been reported in the EU/EEA and the UK.

Video on COVID-19: Why social distancing is important [03-18-2020]

Video on COVID-19: Stay at home! The importance of social distancing [03-17-2020]

Guidance for health system contingency planning during widespread transmission of SARS-CoV-2 with high impact on healthcare services [03-17-2020]

• Download today’s data on the geographic distribution of COVID-19 cases worldwide [updated regularly]
• Communicable disease threats report, 8-14 March 2020, week 11 [03-13-2020]

Public Health England | www.gov.uk
• COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection [03-18-2020]
• COVID-19: shipping and sea ports guidance [03-16-2020]
• COVID-19: guidance for hostel or day centres for people rough sleeping [03-16-2020]
• COVID-19: guidance for staff in the transport sector [03-16-2020]
• COVID-19: guidance for educational settings [03-16-2020]

Other relevant government bodies / health care organizations
• DoD poised to provide masks, ventilators, labs for coronavirus fight [03-17-2020]
• Novel coronavirus (COVID-19, aka 2019-nCoV) guidance for dentists in a community-based setting - Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario [03-2020]

Research Institutes
ProMED: International for Infectious Diseases | promedmail.org
• Latest on COVID-19 [individual posts]
• COVID-19 update (43): global, ship crew outbreak, HS whiz, more countries, WHO [03-18-2020]
• COVID-19 update (42): global, more countries, WHO [03-17-2020]
• COVID-19 update (41): global, surge capacity, vaccine development, WHO [03-16-2020]

CIDRAP: Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy | cidrap.umn.edu
• Modeling study suggests 18 months of COVID-19 social distancing, much disruption [03-19-2020]
• Global COVID-19 total tops 200,000; WHO unveils massive treatment study [03-19-2020]
• US studies offer clues to COVID-19 swift spread, severity [03-19-2020]
• Trump signs Defense Protection Act to manufacture PPE for COVID-19 [03-19-2020]
• EU closes borders to slow COVID-19; activity escalates in South Asia [03-18-2020]

Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis | imperial.ac.uk/mrc-global-infectious-disease-analysis/
• Report 9: Impact of non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) to reduce COVID-19 mortality and healthcare demand [03-16-2020]
• Report 8: Symptom progression of COVID-19 [03-11-2020]

Johns Hopkins CCSE | systems.jhu.edu
• 2019-nCoV Global Cases (by Johns Hopkins CSSE) [real-time tracking]

NextStrain | nextstrain.org
• Phylogeny of SARS-like betacoronaviruses including novel coronavirus (nCoV) [real-time tracking]

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): 03/19/2020 Compiled by PHO Library Services
Genomic epidemiology of novel coronavirus (nCoV) [real-time tracking]
Genomic analysis of nCoV spread. Situation report 2020-01-30 [real-time tracking]

Guidelines and Technical Documents

ONTARIO AND CANADA

Ontario. Ministry of Health | www.ontario.ca

- Testing is being conducted at the Public Health Ontario Laboratory, which is working collaboratively with the National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg.
- Guidance for the health sector [updated 03-17-2020]
- Case definition for novel coronavirus (COVID-19) [03-13-2020]
- Note on guidance documents [from the website]: Guidance documents have been produced for a number of health sectors related to COVID-19. These documents currently refer to the previous case definition. These guidance documents are still valid, but please refer to the new case definition.
- Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for primary care providers in a community setting [02-11-2020]
- Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for acute care [02-11-2020]
- Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for home and community care providers [02-11-2020]
  - COVID-19 screening checklist [03-17-2020]
- Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for paramedic services [02-11-2020]
- Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for independent health facilities (IHF) [02-13-2020]
- Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for laboratories [02-13-2020]
- Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for pharmacies [02-13-2020]

Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) | canada.ca/en/public-health

- Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): summary of assumptions [03-03-2020]
- Public health management of cases and contacts associated with COVID-19 [updated 03-03-2020]
  - Case management – confirmed cases, probable cases and Persons Under Investigation (PUI)
  - Contact management (of probable and confirmed cases)
  - Appendix 1: Instructions for self-isolating in the home or co-living setting
- Interim national case definition for COVID-19 [02-25-2020]
- Interim national surveillance guidelines for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) [02-10-2020]
- COVID-19 case report form
- Biosafety advisory [02-29-2020]
• Routine practices and additional precautions for preventing the transmission of infection in healthcare settings [2014]
• Community-based measures to mitigate the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Canada [03-12-2020]
• Risk-informed decision making for mass gatherings during COVID-19 global outbreak [03-10-2020]
• Public health guidance for schools (K-12) and childcare programs (COVID-19) [modified 03-03-2020]

OTHER JURISDICTIONS
Links for other jurisdictions are checked and updated by noon every Tuesday.

GENERAL
WHO
• Global Surveillance for human infection with novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) [02-27-2020]
• Considerations in the investigation of cases and clusters of COVID-19 [03-13-2020]
• Critical preparedness, readiness and response actions for COVID-19 [03-16-2020]
CDC
• Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) situation summary [updated regularly]
ECDC
• Case definition and European surveillance for COVID-19, as of 2 March 2020 [03-02-2020]
UK
• COVID-19: background information [updated regularly]
Australia
• Coronavirus (COVID-19) – what you need to know [03-15-2020]
BMJ Best Practice
• COVID-19 [updated regularly]

LABORATORIES
WHO
• Laboratory testing for 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in suspected human cases [updated 03-02-2020]
• Laboratory biosafety guidance related to the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) [02-12-2020]
CDC
• Frequently Asked Questions on COVID-19 Testing at Laboratories [03-10-2020]
• Lab Update: Laboratory Biosafety COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions [03-02-2020]
• Interim guidelines for collecting, handling, and testing clinical specimens from patients under investigation (PUIs) for 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) [03-13-2020]
Interim laboratory biosafety guidelines for handling and processing specimens associated with 2019 Novel Coronavirus [03-13-2020]

UK

COVID-19: guidance for sampling and for diagnostic laboratories [03-12-2020]

Australia

PHLN statement on emergency testing provisions for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) [03-17-2020]

PHLN guidance on laboratory testing for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19) [updated 03-14-2020]

PUBLIC HEALTH

WHO

Key planning recommendations for Mass Gatherings in the context of the current COVID-19 outbreak [02-14-2020]


The First Few X (FFX) Cases and contact investigation protocol for 2019-novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) infection [01-29-2020]

Considerations for quarantine of individuals in the context of containment for coronavirus disease (COVID-19) [02-28-2020]

Home care for patients with suspected novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection presenting with mild symptoms and management of contacts [02-04-2020]


CDC

Interim guidance for public health professionals managing people with COVID-19 in home care and isolation who have pets or other animals [last reviewed 03-16-2020]

Interim US guidance for risk assessment and public health management of persons with potential 2019-nCoV exposure: geographic risk and contacts of laboratory-confirmed cases [updated 03-07-2020]

Interim guidance for public health personnel evaluating Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) and asymptomatic close contacts of confirmed cases at their home or non-home residential settings [last reviewed 03-14-2020]

Evaluating and testing persons for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) [last reviewed 03-14-2020]

ECDC
• **Guidance for wearing and removing personal protective equipment in healthcare settings for the care of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19** [02-28-2020]
• **Public health management of persons, including health care workers, having had contact with COVID-19 cases in the European Union** [02-25-2020]
• **Algorithm for management of contacts of probably or confirmed 2019-nCoV cases** [02-25-2020]
• **Public health management of persons having had contact with novel coronavirus cases in the European Union – first update** [02-25-2020]
• **Guidance on community engagement for public health events caused by communicable disease threats in the EU/EEA** [02-13-2020]

**UK**
• **COVID-19: investigation and initial clinical management of possible cases** [last updated 03-13-2020]

**Australia**
• **CDNA National guidelines for public health units** [updated 03-13-2020]

**INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL**

**WHO**
• **Rational use of personal protective equipment for coronavirus disease (COVID-19)** [02-27-2020]
• **Infection prevention and control during health care when novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection is suspected** [01-25-2020]
• **Advice on the use of masks in the community, during home care and in healthcare settings in the context of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak** [01-29-2020]

**CDC**
• **Environmental cleaning and disinfection recommendations: interim recommendations for US community facilities with suspected/confirmed coronavirus disease 2019** [03-06-2020]
• **Interim infection prevention and control recommendations for patients with confirmed or suspected coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in healthcare settings** [03-10-2020]
• **Strategies for optimizing the supply of N95 respirators** [02-29-2020]
• **Strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities, nursing homes** [last reviewed 03-13-2020]

**ECDC**
• **Infection prevention and control for COVID-19 in healthcare settings** [03-12-2020]
• **Guidance for wearing and removing personal protective equipment in healthcare settings for the care of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19** [02-28-2020]
• **Personal protective equipment (PPE) needs in healthcare settings for the care of patients with suspected or confirmed novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV)** [02-07-2020]
• **Interim guidance for environmental cleaning in non-healthcare facilities exposed to SARS-CoV-2** [02-18-2020]
- Guidelines for the use of non-pharmaceutical measures to delay and mitigate the impact of 2019-nCoV [02-10-2020]

UK
- COVID-19: infection prevention and control guidance [updated 03-13-2020]
- Guidance for NHS clinicians on home isolation of a patient whilst being tested for SARS-CoV-2 [02-28-2020]

Australia
- Interim recommendations for the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) during hospital care of people with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) [03-05-2020]
- Interim advice on non-inpatient care of persons with suspected or confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), including use of personal protective equipment (PPE) [03-05-2020]

HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

WHO
- Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak: rights, roles and responsibilities of health workers, including key considerations for occupational safety and health
- Clinical management of severe acute respiratory infection when novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection is suspected [03-13-2020]
- The COVID-19 risk communication package for healthcare facilities [updated 03-02-2020]

CDC
- ICD-10-CM official coding guidelines – supplement: Coding encounters related to COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak [02-20-2020]
- Evaluating and Reporting Persons Under Investigation (PUI) [updated 03-04-2020]
- Healthcare professional preparedness checklist for transport and arrival of patients potentially infected with 2019-nCoV [02-21-2020]
- Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) hospital preparedness assessment tool [02-14-2020]
- Inpatient obstetric healthcare settings [02-18-2020]
- Interim guidance for healthcare facilities: preparing for community transmission of COVID-19 in the United States [02-29-2020]
- Steps healthcare facilities can take now to prepare for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) [03-06-2020]
- Interim guidance for emergency medical services (EMS) systems and 911 public safety answering points (PSAPs) for COVID-19 in the United States [02-15-2020]
- Interim Guidance for Outpatient Hemodialysis Facilities [03-10-2020]
- Interim Guidance for Collection and Submission of Postmortem Specimens from Deceased Persons Under Investigation (PUI) for COVID-19, February 2020
- **Novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) - Discharge criteria for confirmed COVID-19 cases** [03-10-2020]
- **Guidance for wearing and removing personal protective equipment in healthcare settings for the care of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19** [02-28-2020]
- **Checklist for hospitals preparing for the reception and care of coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) patients** [02-26-2020]

**UK**

- **COVID-19: guidance for healthcare providers who have diagnosed a case within their facility** [03-14-2020]
- **COVID-19: investigation and initial clinical management of possible cases** [03-13-2020]
- **COVID-19: guidance for primary care** [last updated 02-25-2020]
- **COVID-19: guidance for first responders** [last updated 02-27-2020]
- **COVID-19: guidance for Ambulance Trusts** [last updated 03-13-2020]
- **COVID-19: residential care, supported living and home care guidance** [03-13-2020]

**Australia**

- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidelines for outbreaks in residential care facilities** [03-13-2020]
- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for clinicians** [03-12-2020]
- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) information on work attendance and testing for health and residential aged care workers** [last updated 03-13-2020]
- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for aeromedical retrieval of patients** [03-06-2020]
- **Interim advice on non-inpatient care of persons with suspected or confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), including use of personal protective equipment (PPE) – Guideline** [03-05-2020]
- **Interim recommendations for the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) during hospital care of people with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) – Guideline** [03-05-2020]
- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) information on the use of surgical masks** [last updated 03-10-2020]
- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for health care and residential care workers** [03-18-2020]
- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for paramedics and ambulance first responders** [last updated 03-10-2020]
- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) information on work attendance and testing for health and residential aged care workers** [03-19-2020]
- **Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidelines for outbreaks in residential care facilities** [03-13-2020]

**COMMUNITY**

**WHO**

- **Social stigma associated with COVID-19: a guide to preventing and addressing social stigma** [02-24-2020]
- **Getting your workplace ready for COVID-19** [03-03-2020]
- **COVID-19: IFRC, UNICEF and WHO issue guidance to protect children and support safe school operations** [03-10-2020]
- **Key messages and actions for COVID-19 prevention and control in schools** [03-10-2020]
• **Responding to community spread of COVID-19** [03-07-2020]

CDC

• **Interim guidance: get your mass gatherings or large community events ready for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)** [03-15-2020]
• **Implementation of mitigation strategies for communities with local COVID-19 transmission** [03-12-2020]
• **Get your community- and faith-based organizations ready for Coronavirus Disease 2019: interim guidance** [03-03-2020]
• **Recommended precautions for preventing spread of COVID-19 in election polling locations** [03-02-2020]
• **Preventing COVID-19 spread in communities** [03-02-2020]
• **Information on COVID-19 and pregnant women and children** [02-24-2020]
• **COVID-19: self-isolation for patients undergoing testing** [01-31-2020]
• **Interim guidance for businesses and employers to plan and respond to coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), February 2020** [02-26-2020]
• **What law enforcement personnel need to know about coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)** [03-02-2020]

ECDC

• **Novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) - Key facts for event planners** [03-10-2020]
• **Information on COVID-19 for specific groups: the elderly, patients with chronic diseases, people with immunocompromising condition and pregnant women** [03-13-2020]
• **COVID-19 – How to minimise the spread?** [03-12-2020]
• **Considerations relating to social distancing measures in response to COVID-19 epidemic** [03-11-2020]
• **Guidelines for the use of non-pharmaceutical measures to delay and mitigate the impact of 2019-nCoV** [02-10-2020]

UK

• **COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection** [03-18-2020]
• **COVID-19: residential care, supported living and home care guidance** [03-19-2020]
• **COVID-19: cleaning of non-healthcare settings** [03-19-2020]
• **COVID-19: guidance for hostels or day centres for people rough sleeping** [03-19-2020]
• **Coronavirus (COVID-19) and prisons: Guidance about visiting prisons during the coronavirus outbreak – UK Ministry of Justice and Her Majesty’s Prison and Probation Service** [03-19-2020]
• **COVID-19: guidance on social distancing and for vulnerable people** [03-16-2020]
• **COVID-19: guidance for households with possible coronavirus infection** [03-18-2020]

Australia

• **Coronavirus (COVID-19) information on the use of surgical masks** [last updated 03-10-2020]
• **Coronavirus (COVID-19) isolation guidance** [03-19-2020]
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) information about home isolation when unwell (suspected or confirmed cases) [03-10-2020]
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) information about returning to your community [03-10-2020]
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) advice for organising public gatherings [last updated 03-19-2020]

**SCHOOLS / CHILDCARE / BUSINESS**

**WHO**
- Getting your workplace ready for COVID-19 [03-03-2020]
- Key messages and actions for COVID-19 prevention and control in schools [03-2020]

**CDC**
- Guidance for school settings: before and during an outbreak [03-13-2020]
- Keeping workplaces, homes, schools, or commercial establishments safe [03-10-2020]
- Interim guidance for administrators of US institutions of higher education: plan, prepare and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 [last reviewed 03-02-2020]
- Interim guidance for administrators of US childcare programs and K-12 schools [last reviewed 03-12-2020]

**UK**
- COVID-19: guidance for educational settings [02-28-2020]
- COVID-19: guidance for employers and businesses [02-25-2020]

**Australia**
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for universities, higher education and vocational education facilities, their students and staff [03-06-2020]
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for schools and early childhood centres, students and parents [03-06-2020]
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for employers [03-06-2020]

**TRAVEL AND BORDERS**

**CANADA**
- Active travel health notices
  - An official global travel advisory is in effect: Avoid non-essential travel outside Canada until further notice. [announced 03-15-2020]

**WHO**
- Operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases/outbreak on board ships [02-24-2020]
- Management of ill travellers at Points of Entry – international airports, seaports and ground crossings – in the context of COVID-19 outbreak [02-16-2020]

**CDC**
- COVID-19 and Cruise Ship Travel [03-17-2020]

**UK**
- COVID-19: shipping and sea ports guidance [03-16-2020]
• COVID-19: guidance for staff in the transport sector [03-16-2020]

Australia
• Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for the airline industry (including flight crew) [updated 03-17-2020]
• Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for hotels and hotel staff [updated 03-11-2020]
• Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for the marine industry [updated 03-12-2020]
• Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for marine pilots [updated 03-14-2020]
• Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for drivers and passengers using public transport [updated 03-08-2020]
• Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for border staff [updated 03-12-2020]
• Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for cargo and mail workers [updated 03-06-2020]
• Coronavirus (COVID-19) information for international travellers [updated 03-15-2020]

IATA
Emergency response plan and action checklist for use by air carriers in the event of a public health emergency