



PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

TO: Family Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, SBGHC and Hanover and District Hospital
Emergency Department Staff, Infection Control Practitioners, Bruce Power
Occupational Health, Grey and Bruce Emergency Services, Midwives

FROM: Infectious Diseases Program

DATE: February 7, 2020

SUBJECT: **2019-novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Update**

Given the new information concerning the emerging 2019-nCoV (Novel Coronavirus), we would recommend that organizations review and assess the readiness of their emergency/pandemic response plan, as a precautionary measure.

Currently the risk of transmission remains low in Grey and Bruce.

However, some features about the factors affecting this risk are concerning, including:

- Australian Public Health authorities have identified that "asymptomatic or minimally symptomatic infection can occur, and that pre-symptomatic transmission has occurred in at least one case cluster." (**Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC), Jan 29, 2020** at: <https://www.health.gov.au/news/statement-on-novel-coronavirus-on-behalf-of-the-australian-health-protection-principal-committee-ahppc>)
- Worldwide, confirmed case are doubling in 3 to 4 days. (**2019-nCoV Global Cases by Johns Hopkins CSSE**, see graph at <https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6>)
- The reproductive rate (R_0 , a measure of infectiousness) estimates vary, and range from 2 to 5, with a majority of estimates ranging from 2 to 3.
<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.01.29.20019547v1>
https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3524675

Public health's role will be to continue to support case contact, provide guidance on case management, and communicate with partners and the public.

As this situation continues to evolve, we will continue to share with you any significant updates as they become available.

If you need any assistance with your emergency/pandemic plan or any questions with regard to 2019-nCoV, please contact the Infectious Diseases Team at the Grey Bruce Health Unit at 519-376-9420 and press 6.

A healthier future for all.

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