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Coronavirus

On December 31, 2019 an outbreak of a novel (new) coronavirus (COVID-19) was detected in Wuhan, China. As the situation continues to evolve, Health Authorities at international, national and local levels continue to monitor, gather information, assess risk and respond.

Current Risk Status

Updated: March 13, 2020

In keeping with social distancing strategies outlined to Manitobans and in consultation with key stakeholders, public health officials have advised suspending classes in Manitoba K-12 schools effective March 23 to April 10th. This is being done to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 in Manitoba.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to evolve rapidly worldwide with more countries reporting cases and an overall increase in case numbers. Manitoba announced its first laboratory-confirmed presumptive positive COVID-19 cases on March 12.

As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, we all have a role to play in slowing its spread and minimizing its impact on our health care system and in our communities.

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living is recommending the following:

Strategies for all Manitobans:

- minimizing prolonged (more than 10 minutes), close (less than two meters/ six feet) contact between other individuals in public,
- avoiding greetings that involve touching such as handshakes,
- disinfecting frequently used surfaces,
- following public health advice related to self-monitoring and self-isolation if you have travelled or have been exposed to someone ill with the virus, and
- considering avoiding travel, crowded places and events, especially if you are at higher risk (e.g. seniors and those with underlying medical conditions)
- cancelling or postponing any large-scale events with more than 250 attendees (this will help reduce prolonged (more than 10 minutes), close (less than two meters) contact between other individuals in public).

Strategies for Schools and Educational Institutions:

- ensuring ill staff and students stay home from school, and supporting those who are self-isolating at home to ensure they do not fall behind in their studies,
- reducing large group, and crowded activities,
- increasing desk distance between students, and
- considering implementing virtual or online classrooms, to reduce the number of people in classrooms

Strategies for Employers:

- relaxing sick leave policies, such as the requirement for sick notes, to encourage those who are ill to stay home and prevent the spread of illness to coworkers or customers
- allowing employees to work from home if possible
- discontinuing non-essential work-related travel outside of Manitoba, and
- encouraging virtual meetings to reduce prolonged, close contact between individuals.

For more information about social distancing measures, like those listed above, [click here](#).

Think ahead, plan and prepare for if COVID-19 becomes common in your community and/ or if you or someone you provide care (e.g., children) becomes sick. More information is [available here](#).

For more information on how to reduce your risk of infection see the [Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) factsheet](#).

Advice for Travelers and Contacts of COVID-19 Cases

Self-isolation is recommended for the following groups for 14 days after departing the area, or since their last known contact or exposure.




- travelers returning from the province of Hubei
- travelers returning from Iran
- travelers returning from Italy
- contacts of a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19
- laboratory workers exposed during work

Self-monitoring for symptoms of COVID-19 is recommended for the following groups for 14 days after return to Manitoba, or since their last known contact or exposure.

- All returning international travelers,
- Close contacts (within 2 metres/6 feet) of individuals with flu-like symptoms who have traveled internationally within 14 days prior to becoming sick

International travelers who develop cold or flu-like symptoms within 14 days of returning to Manitoba should contact Health Links-Info Santé to determine if testing for COVID-19 should be considered. In cases where testing is not recommended, they should stay home (self-isolate) until they are well.

Information on self-monitoring, self-isolation, and what to do while waiting for COVID-19 test results can be found at:

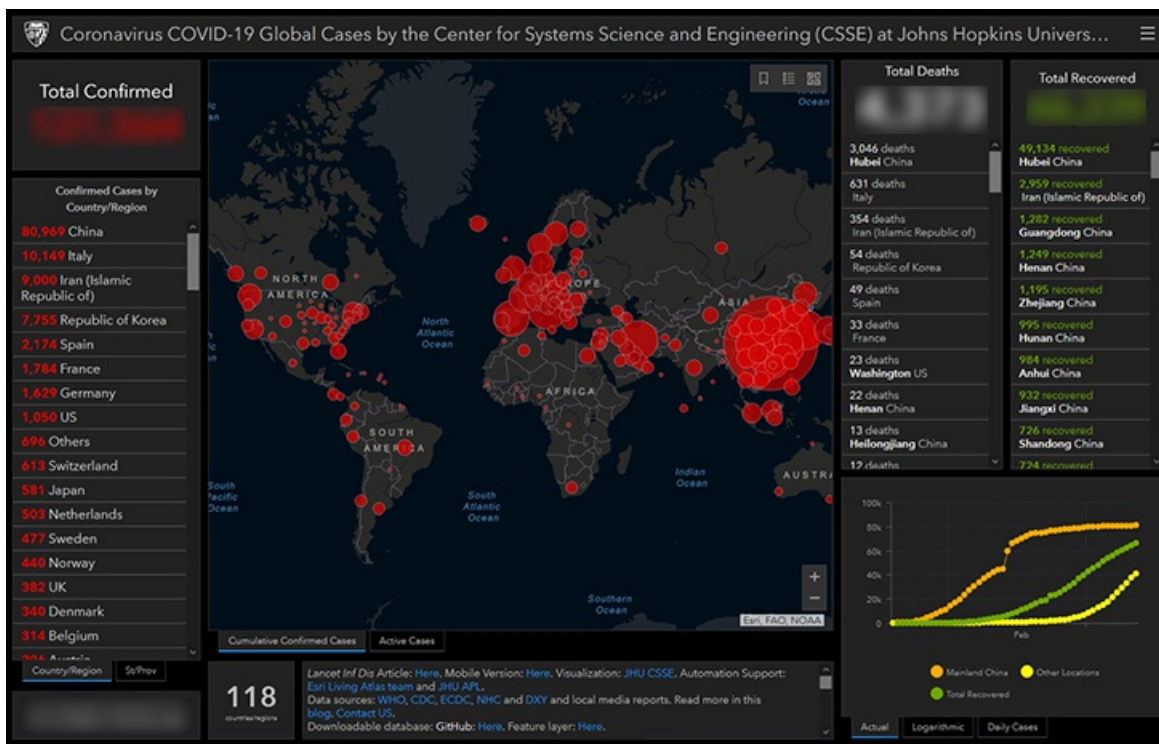
- [Novel Coronavirus Fact Sheet](#) (Contains Advice for Self-monitoring) 
- [Self-Isolation Fact Sheet](#) 
- [What Do I Do While Waiting for My \(COVID-19\) Test Results?](#) 

Canadian Situation

As of March 12, 2020, 152 cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Canada. Cases have been reported in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Ontario, Quebec and Saskatchewan. For the most current numbers, see the [Public Health Agency of Canada's COVID-19: Outbreak update website](#).

For a complete list of countries reporting COVID-19 cases see the most current [WHO Coronavirus Disease situation report](#) or click on the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus COVID-19 Global Case map dashboard.

(click on map image below for most current case numbers)



Total Number of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Completed Lab Tests:

Date (as of)	Number of People with Completed Tests
March 11, 2020	403

Total Number of Confirmed and Presumptive Positive Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cases:

Date (as of)	Number of People Confirmed Positive *	Number of People Presumptive Positive**
March 13, 2020	1	3

* A confirmed positive case has tested positive at both Cadham Provincial Laboratory and the National Microbiology Laboratory.

** A presumptive positive case has tested positive at Cadham Provincial Laboratory and is awaiting confirmatory testing results from the National Microbiology Laboratory.

**Communicable Disease Control (CDC)
Public Health
Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living**
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Winnipeg MB R3B 3M9 CANADA

Health Links – Info Santé
204-788-8200 or 1-888-315-9257

Get Started

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- Coronaviruses
- For the Public
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- Media Releases

Other Resources

Public Health Agency of Canada – Coronavirus

Government of Canada Travel Health Notice – Novel Coronavirus in China

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – 2019 Novel Coronavirus

The World Health Organization – Coronavirus

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