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## Health, Seniors and Active Living

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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:

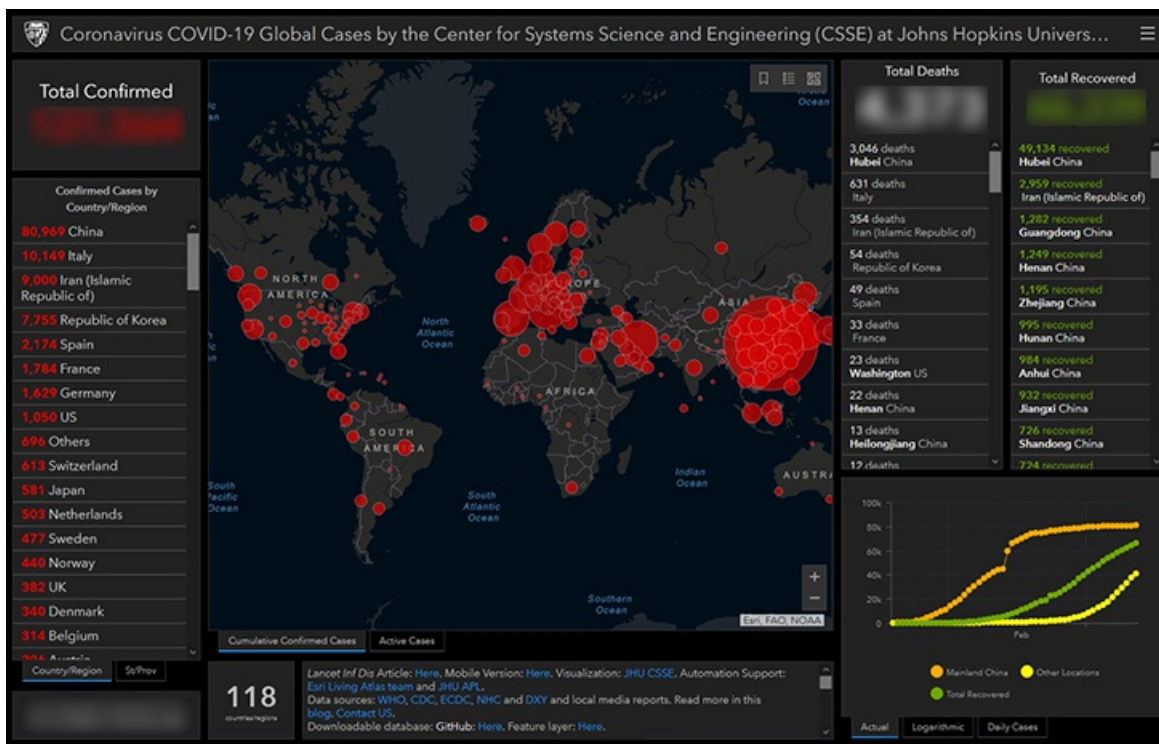
- [Novel Coronavirus Fact Sheet](#) (Contains Advice for Self-monitoring) 
- [Self-Isolation Fact Sheet](#) 
- [What Do I Do While Waiting for My \(COVID-19\) Test Results?](#) 

### 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**  
4th Floor - 300 Carlton St.  
Winnipeg MB R3B 3M9 CANADA

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

## Get Started

### Home

- Coronaviruses
- For the Public
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### 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

### **See Also**

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