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Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Outbreak update

Outbreak update

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- 1-833-784-4397
 - Interpretation services are available in multiple languages
- Email: phac.info.aspc@canada.ca

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Current situation

Areas in Canada with cases of COVID-19 as of March 12, 2020		
Province, territory or other	Number of probable cases	Number of confirmed cases
British Columbia	0	46
Alberta	0	19
Saskatchewan	1	0
Manitoba	1	0
Ontario	0	59
Quebec	0	13
New Brunswick	1	0
Repatriated Canadians	0	1
Total cases	3	138

Information on demographics, symptoms and outcomes is available for most cases.

Of these cases:

- the onset of illnesses occurred between January 15 and March 9, 2020
- 53% of cases are female
- 67% of cases are over the age of 40
- 13% of cases have been hospitalized
- 1 person has died of COVID-19
- 80% of cases are travellers and 10% are close contacts of those travellers

This illness summary is updated once every weekday with information provided by provinces and territories. A detailed [epidemiologic summary](#) is also available.

Global

On March 11, 2020, [the World Health Organization \(WHO\) assessed COVID-19 as a pandemic](#).

This assessment by the WHO is not unexpected. Describing the situation as a pandemic does not change the WHO's assessment of the threat posed by COVID-19 and it does not change what the WHO is doing. It also does not change what countries around the world should do. For that reason, it does not change the approach we are taking in Canada.

Canada's public health system is prepared. Since the outset, the Public Health Agency of Canada — along with public health authorities at all levels of government across the country — have been working together to ensure that our preparedness and response measures are appropriate and adaptable, based on the latest science and the evolving

situation.

Aside from Canada, other countries and regions are reporting cases. Check the latest [travel health notices](#) before travelling.

▶ North America

▶ Central America, Caribbean and South America

▶ Africa

▶ Europe

▶ Asia

▶ Oceania

Risk to Canadians

At this time, the Public Health Agency of Canada has assessed the public health risk associated with COVID-19 as **low** for the general population in Canada but this could change rapidly. There is an increased risk of more severe outcomes for Canadians:

- aged 65 and over
- with compromised immune systems
- with underlying medical conditions

While a COVID-19 outbreak is not unexpected in Canada, our public health system is prepared to respond. The Public Health Agency of Canada, along with provincial, territorial and community partners, continues to reassess the public health risk, based on the best available evidence as the situation evolves.

The risk to Canadian travellers abroad will vary depending on the destination, as well as the person's age and health status. There are some destinations where the Government of Canada recommends avoiding all travel or all non-essential travel. Check the latest [travel health notices](#) before travelling.

As well, the risk for COVID-19 may be increased for certain settings such as:

- [cruise ships](#)
- heavily affected areas
- international conferences and other large gatherings in enclosed spaces

It is important for all travellers to:

- self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough or difficulty breathing) for 14 days after returning to Canada
- avoid places where you cannot easily separate yourself from others if you become ill

If you have even mild symptoms, **stay home** and call the [public health authority](#) in the province or territory you are in to inform them. They will provide advice on what you should do.

We will continue to adapt our risk assessment based on the latest data available.

How Canada is monitoring COVID-19

The health and safety of all Canadians is our top priority.

The Public Health Agency of Canada is working with provinces, territories and international partners, including the World Health Organization, to actively monitor the situation. Global efforts are focused on containment of the outbreak and the prevention of further spread.

Canada's Chief Public Health Officer of Canada is in close contact with provincial and territorial Chief Medical Officers of Health to ensure that any cases of COVID-19 occurring in Canada continue to be rapidly identified and managed in order to protect the health of Canadians.

Canada's National Microbiology Laboratory is performing diagnostic testing for the virus that causes COVID-19. The laboratory is working in close collaboration with provincial and territorial public health laboratories, which are now able to test for COVID-19.

National Microbiology Laboratory testing results as of March 12, 2020

Negative	Positive	Total
684	23	707

This testing summary represents cases confirmed at the laboratory and **not** [total reported cases](#) in Canada, as provincial public health

Should there be any differences with the national case count compared with case numbers reported by provincial and territorial public health officials, provincial data should be considered the most up-to-date.

For more information, visit [Canada's response page](#).

History

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declares the global outbreak of COVID-19 a pandemic.

On March 9, 2020, Canada confirms its first death related to COVID-19.

On February 20, 2020, Canada confirms its first case related to travel outside mainland China.

On February 9, 2020, Canada expands COVID-19 screening requirements for travellers

returning from affected areas to 10 airports across 6 provinces.

On January 30, 2020, the World Health Organization declares the outbreak of COVID-19 a public health event of international concern.

On January 25, 2020, Canada confirms its first case of COVID-19 related to travel in Wuhan, China.

On January 22, 2020, Canada implements screening requirements related to COVID-19 for travellers returning from China to major airports in Montréal, Toronto and Vancouver.

On January 15, 2020, the Public Health Agency of Canada activates the Emergency Operation Centre to support Canada's response to COVID-19.

On January 7, 2020, China confirmed COVID-19.

On December 31, 2019, the World Health Organization was alerted to several cases of pneumonia in Wuhan, China. The virus did not match any other known virus.

Updates

Title

[Statement on a case of coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) in a passenger from the *Grand Princess*](#)

[Prime Minister outlines Canada's COVID-19 response](#)

[Government of Canada repatriates Canadians from *Grand Princess* cruise ship](#)

[Government of Canada evacuating Canadians on board *Grand Princess* cruise ship](#)

[Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer on the release of repatriated Canadians from](#)

[Prime Minister creates committee on COVID-19](#)

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[Community Safety a Top Priority in 2019-nCoV Repatriation Efforts](#)

[Update: Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer on the release of selected individuals](#)

[Canada supports China's ongoing response to novel coronavirus outbreak](#)

[Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada on the release of selected individuals](#)

[Government of Canada repatriates Canadians and their families from the epicentre of the 2019-nCoV outbreak](#)

[Government of Canada evacuating Canadians from Wuhan, China](#)

[Prime Minister Justin Trudeau convenes the Incident Response Group for an update on the 2019-nCoV outbreak](#)

[Statement by Foreign Affairs Minister on travel to Hubei Province in China](#)

[Statement by the Minister of Health on the First Presumptive Confirmed Travelled-Related Case](#)

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Date modified: 2020-03-12

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