

Update on the **Novel Coronavirus in Peel**

March 2, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are writing to provide you with an update on the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. Peel Public Health continues to work closely with health system partners (hospitals, paramedics, health care providers) and the provincial and federal governments to ensure a coordinated response. To date, there have been no cases of COVID-19 in Peel Region. The risk of getting COVID-19 in Peel Region and Ontario remains low because the virus is not spreading in the general community due to effective surveillance, and case and contact management.

Globally, COVID-19 has been found in several new areas of the world and in some areas, community transmission is occurring. [The Ministry of Health has expanded the list of impacted areas](#) beyond mainland China to include **South Korea, Hong Kong, Italy, Singapore, Iran and Japan**. The Government of Canada has issued COVID-19 travel health advisories for each of these areas.

If you are planning to travel, please consult the [Government of Canada](#) website for travel advice and advisories related to COVID-19. If you have recently returned from a trip out of country, please follow the below steps:

Travel to an Impacted Area (Except for Hubei Province in China)

Upon return from a COVID-19 impacted area (currently Mainland China, South Korea, Hong Kong, Italy, Singapore Iran, and Japan) all travellers are advised to:

- monitor their health for flu-like symptoms (fever, cough, and difficulty breathing) for 14 days upon return
- if flu-like symptoms develop, [contact Peel Public Health](#) immediately and refer to [Peel Public Health's guide on how and where to get medical help](#)

You do not need to contact Peel Public Health if you are well.

Travel to Hubei Province in China

If you or your family have returned from Hubei province in China in the last 14 days:

- stay at home and avoid close contact with others, including those in your home, for 14 days after leaving the impacted area AND
- [contact Peel Public Health](#) for further instructions and important information
- if you notice flu-like symptoms (fever, cough and difficulty breathing), [contact Peel Public Health](#) immediately and refer to [Peel Public Health's guide on how and where to get medical help](#).

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How to Prevent the Spread of Respiratory Viruses

The best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other more common viruses is to:

- wash hands thoroughly with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose as much as possible
- avoid contact with people who are ill and their items
- cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing; if no tissue is available, then sneeze or cough into the sleeve or arm
- clean and disinfect objects and surfaces regularly
- stay home if ill until your symptoms resolve

Peel Public Health continues to carefully monitor the COVID-19 situation and is committed to continuing to share the most recent information around COVID-19. Parents and students should continue to follow trusted online sources including [Peel Public Health](#) and the [Ministry of Health](#) webpages.

If you have any concerns or questions about COVID-19, please call Peel Public Health at 905-799-7700 or for residents of Caledon, 905-584-2216.

Thank you,
Peel Public Health