2019 N-CoV/
COVID-19 Update

Grey County
February 13, 2020
Today

- What is 2019 n-Cov/COVID-19?
- Situation Today
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- Considerations for Municipalities
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What is 2019 n-Cov/COVID-19?

Coronavirus:
Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses from the common cold to more serious respiratory infections like bronchitis, pneumonia or severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

- spread mainly from person to person through close contact
- severe disease may be likely if you have a weakened immune system
  - older people
  - people with chronic disease (for example, diabetes, cancer, heart, renal or chronic lung disease)

What is 2019 n-Cov/COVID-19?

The 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19, previously called 2019-nCoV)

- COVID-19 is a respiratory infection that originated in Wuhan, China.

- The first presumptive case of this virus in Ontario was identified on January 25, 2020, and has evidence of human-to-human transmission.

- Majority of cases globally are either in, or related to travel to mainland China.
Situation Today

World
► https://gisanddata.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/bda7594740fd40299423467b48e9ecf6

Canada
► 7 Confirmed positive cases (4 British Columbia, 3 Ontario)

Ontario
► 3 Confirmed positive cases (2 Toronto, 1 London)

Grey Bruce
► 0 cases
What is Public Health doing?

- Regular communications with the province through teleconferences

- Sharing provincial guidance documents and consulting with health care partners (hospitals, primary care physicians, community care, paramedics)
  - Including working with hospital and provincial lab to manage recent person under investigation

- Communication with education sector, workplaces, municipalities/counties (CEMC), general public (press releases, consultations, helplines, website)

- Preparing internally
What are we doing internally?

- Incident management team - IMS
  - MOH, Physician consultant, Communications, Emergency Manager, Infectious Disease Manager
- Tracking the situation
- Risk assessments
- Preparations of Infectious Diseases team
  - Case management
  - Contact management
  - Managing existing respiratory/influenza outbreaks
- Personal Protective Equipment stock review
Considerations for Municipalities

- Review and assess the readiness of emergency / pandemic response plan
- Encourage prevention of spread of disease for staff (influenza and other diseases) ongoing

**Messaging**
- Ensure it is timely, credible and consistent with Public Health messaging
- MOH recommendations, directives, orders and requests may be provided
- Follow Public Health Updates and guidance

- Inventory of PPE (those with LTC, EMS)
- Assess level of environmental cleaning
- Identify areas of potential spread of infection during outbreaks (gatherings, events)
- Ensure accurate list of community partners, their roles and contact information (hospital, funeral homes)
What can you do as an individual?

- Stay informed

- Prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses
  - wash your hands often with soap and water
  - sneeze and cough into your sleeve
  - avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
  - avoid contact with people who are sick
  - stay home if you are sick

- The cold and flu can cause serious illness, and are still the highest risk respiratory infections in the Grey Bruce region
Questions?

www.publichealthgreybruce.on.ca
519-376-9420
Under agreed guidelines between WHO, the World Organisation for Animal Health and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, we had to find a name that did not refer to a geographical location, an animal, an individual or group of people, and which is also pronounceable and related to the disease.

Having a name matters to prevent the use of other names that can be inaccurate or stigmatizing. It also gives us a standard format to use for any future coronavirus outbreaks.

(WHO, 2020)
Human Health Emergencies

Definitions

- **Human Health Emergency**: ‘A widespread and/or severe epidemic, incident of contamination or other situation that presents a danger to, or otherwise negatively impacts, the general health and well-being of the human population’ (EMO, 2005).

- **Epidemic**: Major incidents of human illness caused by the transmission of a specific disease. The occurrence, in a community or region, of cases of an illness (or an outbreak), with a frequency clearly in excess of normal (EMO, 2005).

- **Pandemic**: An epidemic occurring worldwide or over a very wide area, crossing boundaries of several countries, and usually affecting a large number of people (WHO, 2007).