

Memorandum

February 6, 2020

Dear Post Secondary Administrators,

Subject: Novel coronavirus

I am writing to provide an update on the novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), a new virus that causes respiratory illness. We know that Albertans, including post-secondary staff and students, are concerned about this particular coronavirus, but it is important to remember that the current risk to Albertans is low. **There are no confirmed or probable cases of the 2019-nCoV in Alberta at this time.**

As this is an evolving situation, further updates can be found at Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services websites:

- www.alberta.ca/coronavirus
- www.ahs.ca/ncov

Our knowledge of the 2019-nCoV continues to grow as new information becomes available, and this new evidence informs adjustments to our public health actions. Although there is uncertainty on the issue of asymptomatic transmission, it is unlikely to contribute much to the spread of the virus. The highest risk of virus spread would be from a person who has symptoms like fever and cough.

Based on our evolving knowledge we, along with other provinces in Canada, are now recommending that individuals **who have been in Hubei Province, China** self-isolate until 14 days have passed since they last visited Hubei province.

For persons who have visited mainland China (outside Hubei Province) in the past 14 days we are recommending that individuals monitor themselves daily for symptoms such as fever or cough for 14 days **after** their return.

Recommendations in the attached letter for students and staff are provided for you to distribute. **These recommendations are made out of an abundance of caution and contain only voluntary measures. You are not expected to enforce or monitor them.** Please help support your post-secondary communities by not making any assumptions about the risk of students or staff based on their ethnicity or country of origin.

Staff and students may call Health Link at 811 for any 2019-nCoV questions.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Yours truly,



Deena Hinshaw, BSc, MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCP
Chief Medical Officer of Health