

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Health PEI Executive Leadership and Leadership Forum
FROM: Dr. Heather Morrison, Chief Public Health Officer
Marion Dowling, Executive Director and Chief Nursing Officer
DATE: March 14, 2020
SUBJECT: Update #2 Joint Response Team re: Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

As of today, March 14, **the Chief Public Health Office has identified PEI's first case of COVID-19 due to coronavirus. Public Health is now completing contact tracing.**

The patient arrived March 7 from a cruise and experienced symptoms on March 10. She called 811 and was tested on March 11.

Additionally, all individuals, including health care workers, who travel outside of Canada are asked to self-isolate for 14 days. This includes anyone who has traveled since March 8.

As previously noted, HPEI and CPHO have initiated a joint response team for the health sector to prepare for managing potential cases of COVID-19 cases in PEI. The response is currently operating at Level 3: Emergency Response and Emergency Planning.

Expanded returning traveler recommendations has resulted in the need to increase testing and lab capacity for quick identification and isolation of COVID-19 cases. Two community-based clinics have been set up to provide COVID-19 testing for symptomatic patients who have travelled outside of the country, one in Charlottetown and one in Summerside.

Health PEI Operations are rapidly adjusting to manage a potential impact from staff travel restrictions and any increase need for testing, and care requirements of patients. Planning is taking place for the possibility of there being a need to care for an influx of patients as the situation progresses.

We appreciate the effort being put forward by staff and physicians to ensure we continue to offer the highest quality and safest care possible. Your dedication is inspiring.

Many staff and physicians also have questions. Please see attached the newest FAQ for health care workers for your reference. We have also included a self-isolation information sheet.

For specific questions, please contact your manager and/or human resources manager.

Updated information, including information for health care providers, will be posted regularly to the website princeedwardisland.ca/coronavirus. Information is also available by calling the Public Health at 1-800-958-6400.

The following resources are available for your reference:

1. [Prince Edward Island COVID-19 Novel Coronavirus Guidelines](#)
2. [Infection Prevention and Control for Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\): Interim Guidance for Acute Healthcare Settings](#)
3. [Routine Practices and Additional Precautions for Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Healthcare Settings](#)
4. [Interim guidance: Public health management of cases and contacts associated with novel coronavirus disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
5. [COVID-19 National Surveillance Case Definition](#)
6. [PEI Government Novel Coronavirus Frequently Asked Questions](#)
7. [Public Health Guidance on COVID-19 for Schools \(K-12\) and Childcare Programs](#)
8. [Technical COVID-19 Disease Assumptions for clinicians and public health authorities](#)
9. [Community-based measures to mitigate the spread of coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) in Canada](#)
10. [Risk-informed decision-making for mass gatherings during COVID-19 global outbreak](#)
11. [Febrile respiratory illness screening tool](#)

As a reminder, you must report any suspect cases of COVID-19 to the CPHO as soon as observed. The [PEI COVID-19 Guideline](#) is an evergreen document and will be revised to reflect updates in recommendations. Health Care Providers can Contact CPHO at 902-368-4996 if you have any questions.

Dr. Heather Morrison, CPHO

Marion Dowling, Health PEI

