

2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

In late 2019, a new outbreak of a novel coronavirus was reported in Wuhan, China. As of Jan 31, 2020, there have been almost 10,000 confirmed cases of a new strain of coronavirus (2019-nCoV) worldwide, with the majority in the city of Wuhan in China¹; however, the virus is also spreading to other parts of China, and at least 83 cases in at least 18 other countries, including 3 in Canada and 5 in the US.² 213 people have so far died due to this virus in China.¹

What are coronaviruses?

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a family of enveloped virus that was first discovered in the 1960s. Coronaviruses are most commonly found in animals, including camels and bats, and are not typically transmitted between animals and humans. However six strains of coronavirus were previously known to be capable of transmission from animals to humans, the most well-known being Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) CoV, responsible for a large outbreak in 2003, and Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) CoV, responsible for an outbreak in 2012.³

The latest strain, known as 2019 Novel Coronavirus or 2019-nCoV, is the seventh strain now known to have been transmitted from animals to humans at an animal and seafood market in Wuhan, China. The growing number of patients who have not had exposure to animal markets suggest that person-to-person transmission is occurring.⁴

What are the symptoms of 2019 Novel Coronavirus and what do I do if I suspect symptoms in myself or others?

According to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), symptoms for the Novel Coronavirus have included: fever; cough; and difficulty breathing. If you have traveled to Wuhan, China and develop symptoms of 2019 Novel Coronavirus infection, avoid contact with others and contact a health care professional.⁵

Tell your health care professional: your symptoms; where you have been travelling or living; if you had direct contact with animals (for example, if you visited a live animal market); if you had close contact with a sick person, especially if they had a fever, cough or difficulty breathing.⁵

How are coronaviruses spread?

According to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), coronaviruses are most commonly spread by coughing and sneezing, close personal contact, such as shaking hands, or touching an object or surface with the virus on it and then touching the mouth, eyes or nose.⁶ PHAC has also issued an information sheet on the novel coronavirus.⁷

Why are human coronaviruses and particularly nCoV a concern?

Most people get infected with a human coronavirus at some point in their lives and experience cold-like symptoms for a few days before recovering. However, novel coronaviruses—such as MERS-CoV, SARS-CoV, and 2019-nCoV cause severe symptoms including fever, cough and shortness of breath that can lead to pneumonia and even death. These coronaviruses can quickly spread from person to person and can lead to widespread outbreaks when infected individuals travel to different countries. As with most emerging viruses, the risk depends on a number of factors including ease of transmission, severity of symptoms and prevention and treatment options available. In the case of nCoV, there is neither a vaccine nor specific treatment.

Infection Control Measures

The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the novel coronavirus as a public health emergency on international concern.⁸

When the PHAC has issued a public notice that an emerging viral pathogen poses a significant risk to Canadians or has been declared by the WHO as a public health emergency of international concern, manufacturers can communicate to the public regarding the expected efficacy of disinfectants against the emerging pathogen.⁹

In the absence of effective drugs or vaccines, Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) strategies to prevent or limit transmission of 2019-nCoV in healthcare facilities include:

- Prompt identification
- Appropriate risk assessment
- Management and placement of probable and confirmed cases
- Investigation and follow-up of close contacts.¹⁰

Early recognition and source control

To facilitate early recognition and source control:

- Triage for identification and appropriate placement (source control) of patients.
- Masks, tissues and alcohol-based hand rubs (AHBR) should be available at entrances.
- Signage should be posted to instruct symptomatic patients to alert healthcare workers, thus prompting completion of a patient screening questionnaire.¹⁰

Additional information and guidelines from PHAC for health professionals are accessible here:

<https://canada.ca/coronavirus>

Clorox Products Eligible to be Used Against 2019-nCoV Based on Broad Spectrum Virucide claim Under conditions of a public health emergency declared by Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) or World Health Organization (WHO)⁹

Health Canada recommends that products with a broad spectrum virucidal claim may be used against an emerging viral pathogen.⁹ All the following Clorox products have broad spectrum virucidal claims and demonstrated effectiveness against coronaviruses similar to the new coronavirus and thus expected to be effective against 2019-nCoV on hard non-porous surfaces:

	Product Name	Item No.	DIN No.	Follow directions for use against stated virus approved by Health Canada (contact time)	Off-label claim against 2019-nCoV
Clorox Healthcare®	Germicidal Disinfecting Cleaner	01416	02469278	Poliovirus type 1 ATCC VR-1562 Chat strain (1 min)	Yes
	Bleach Germicidal Wipes	01308, 01557, 01309 & 01310	02465671	Poliovirus type 1 ATCC VR-1562 Chat strain (1 min)	Yes
	Fuzion® Cleaner Disinfectant	01671	02459744	Poliovirus type 1 ATCC VR-1562 Chat strain (1 min)	Yes
	Spore Defense™ Cleaner Disinfectant	01742	02494663	Poliovirus type 1 ATCC VR-1562 Chat strain (1 min)	Yes
CloroxPro™	Clorox T360® Disinfecting Cleaner	01668	02460769	Canine Parvovirus ATCC VR-2017 (2 min)	Yes
	Clorox® Germicidal Bleach	01383	02459108	Poliovirus type 1 ATCC VR-1562 Chat strain (5 min)	Yes

The following Clorox products all have efficacy data against viruses within the taxonomic genus of 2019-nCoV and according to PHAC their claims against 2019-nCoV or any other emerging viral pathogen is authorized:

	Product Name	Item No.	DIN No.	Follow directions for use against stated virus approved by Health Canada (contact time)	Off-label claim against 2019-nCoV
Clorox Healthcare®	VersaSure™ Alcohol-free Cleaner Disinfectant Wipes	01686	02473151	MERS-Coronavirus (30 sec)	Yes
CloroxPro™	Clorox® Disinfecting Wipes	01169 & 01292	02492636	SARS-Associated Coronavirus & MERS-Coronavirus (15 sec)	Yes
	Clorox® Clean-Up® Disinfecting Bleach Cleaner	01272 & 01172	02494019	SARS-Associated Coronavirus & MERS-Coronavirus (30 sec)	Yes

1. CNN news report. China marks deadliest day as WHO declares global health emergency in fight against Wuhan coronavirus. <https://www.cnn.com/2020/01/30/asia/wuhan-coronavirus-update-intl-hnk/index.html> (Accessed January 31, 2020).
2. WHO Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Situation Report - 10 (January 30, 2020). https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200130-sitrep-10-ncov.pdf?sfvrsn=d0b2e480_2 (Accessed January 31, 2020).
3. CDC. Human Coronavirus. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/index.html>. Accessed January 21, 2020
4. CDC. 2019 Novel Coronavirus, Wuhan, China. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html> (Accessed January 31, 2020)
5. Health Canada. Novel Coronavirus infection: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ). <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/frequently-asked-questions.html> (Accessed January 31, 2020)
6. Coronavirus infection: Prevention and risks. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus/prevention-risks.html> (Accessed January 30, 2020).
7. 2019 Novel Coronavirus. <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/diseases-conditions/2019-novel-coronavirus-information-sheet/coronavirus-handout-eng.pdf> (Accessed January 30, 2020).
8. CBC news report. WHO declares coronavirus outbreak an international emergency. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/who-reconvenes-assess-latest-coronavirus-1.5445775> (Accessed January 30, 2020).
9. Health Canada Guidance Document: Safety and efficacy requirements for hard surface disinfectant drugs. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/applications-submissions/guidance-documents/disinfectants/safety-efficacy-requirements-hard-surface-disinfectant-drugs.html#b5> (Accessed Jan 27, 2020).
10. Health Canada. 2019 novel coronavirus: For health professionals. <https://www.canada.ca/coronavirus> (Accessed January 31, 2020)



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