

January 31, 2020

Attention: Winnipeg Long Term Care Facility family/ support persons

As many of you are aware, the Hubei province of Central China is experiencing an outbreak of a respiratory illness, known as the novel Coronavirus. That outbreak has spread within the country and cases have started to appear outside of China, including three confirmed cases in Canada (two in Toronto and one in British Columbia).

Please Note: the Public Health Agency of Canada has indicated the risk of this virus spreading within Canada is low.

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living, along with the Public Health Agency of Canada, are taking steps to decrease the risk of infection and the spread of the novel coronavirus here at home.

The risk of long term care home residents being exposed to the virus is very low. The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and Shared Health have very strict infection prevention and control measures in place to prevent the spread of any infections in health care settings, including long term care facilities.

If you have recently travelled to Hubei Province, including the city of Wuhan, China and are feeling ill, please take precautions and connect with your health care provider or Health Links – Info Santé to discuss your symptoms. In the event that you or anyone in your family tests positive for the novel coronavirus AND has visited a long term care facility or care environment within the last 14 days, we would ask that you please notify the Long Term Care Infection Prevention and Control Coordinator at 204-940-8554.

As always we would request that anyone who is feeling unwell avoid visiting a long term care facility or health care setting until those symptoms are resolved.

It is not uncommon for visitor precautions to be in place at long term care facilities in Winnipeg for illnesses such as the common cold or influenza. Please do not be alarmed if visitor precautions are put in place at your loved one's home. This is a routine practice that is in place to keep our residents safe and as healthy as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.