



## CORONAVIRUS FACT SHEET

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is providing this overview of the coronavirus, and information on resources in your region. As the situation is evolving rapidly, please visit the Public Health Agency of Canada and Indigenous Services Canada for the most updated information.

Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, Dr Theresa Tam, has assessed the **public health risk of COVID-19 within Canada to be low.**

- Coronaviruses in general are part of a large family of **viruses** which may cause illness in people and in animals. Human coronaviruses are common and are typically associated with mild illnesses, like the common cold.
- Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a new disease that has not been previously identified in humans.
- Those who are infected with COVID-19 may have little to no **symptoms**. You may not know you have symptoms of COVID-19 because they are similar to a cold or flu.
  - Symptoms may take up to 14 days to appear after exposure to COVID-19. This is the longest known infectious period for this disease.
  - Symptoms have included fever, cough, difficulty breathing, pneumonia in both lungs.
- Coronavirus infections are **diagnosed** by a health care provider based on symptoms and confirmed through laboratory tests.



- Currently there is **NO vaccine** to protect against 2019 novel coronavirus infection.
- The flu vaccine does **not** protect against coronaviruses.
- For now, there is no **specific treatment**. Most people with the common coronavirus illness will recover on their own and your health care provider may recommend steps you can take to relieve symptoms.
- Common **prevention measures** for viruses, such as the COVID-19 and influenza, include:
  - Regular hand washing with soap and warm water or an alcohol-based hand cleanser.
  - Covering your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing.
  - Avoid close contact with anyone showing symptoms of a respiratory illness, such as coughing or sneezing.



**For updated national information on COVID-19:**

**PHAC:** [www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html)

**ISC:** [www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1581964230816/1581964277298](http://www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1581964230816/1581964277298)