March 18 2020: COVID-19 Update

Please see the today’s updates from the municipal, provincial, and federal health authorities as well as the WHO as well as major federal and provincial announcements.

Announcements:

Federal

- Canada’s COVID-19 Economic Response Plan: Support for Canadians and Businesses [Added 03-18-20]
  - See above news release for the following:
  - Support for Canadians
    - Income Support for Individuals Who Need it Most
    - Flexibility for Taxpayers
    - Mortgage Default Management Tools
    - Role of Financial Institutions
  - Support for Businesses
    - Supporting Canadian Businesses Through the Canada Account
    - Helping Businesses Keep Their Workers
    - Flexibility for Businesses Filing Taxes
    - Ensuring Businesses have Access to Credit
    - Supporting Financial Market Liquidity
  - Economic Response Plan – Cost and Implementation
- CBC- Canada, U.S. closing border to non-essential traffic [Added 03-18-20]

Provincial

- Ontario Enacts Declaration of Emergency to Protect the Public [Updated 03-17-20]
- Job Protection for Workers during the COVID-19 Situation [Added 03-18-20]
  - The proposed legislation would, if passed, provide job protection for employees unable to work for the following reasons:
    - The employee is under medical investigation, supervision or treatment for COVID-19.
    - The employee is acting in accordance with an order under the Health Protection and Promotion Act.
    - The employee is in isolation or quarantine.
    - The employee is acting in accordance with public health information or direction.
    - The employer directs the employee not to work.
    - The employee needs to provide care to a person for a reason related to COVID-19 such as a school or day-care closure.
    - An employee will not be required to provide a medical note if they take the leave.
  - The measures would be retroactive to January 25, 2020
Toronto Public Health:
City of Toronto Response to COVID-19
- Toronto: 104 positive cases. [Updated 03-18-20]
- There are indications of community transmission
- Statement from Toronto’s Medical Officer of Health: March 17, 2020 at 3:45pm [Updated 03-18-20]

Public Health Ontario:
- Ontario: 205 cases confirmed positive as of March 18th at 10:30am [Updated 03-18-20]

Public Health Agency of Canada:
- Canada.ca/coronavirus website
  - Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Outbreak update
  - Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Awareness resources
  - Travel Advice and Advisories
    - An official global travel advisory is in effect: Avoid non-essential travel outside Canada until further notice
  - Canada: 569 confirmed cases as of March 18 at 9:30pm [Updated 03-18-20]

World Health Organization:
WHO COVID-19 Website
- COVID-19 outbreak can now be described as a pandemic
- WHO Director-General’s opening remarks at the media briefing on COVID-19 - 16 March 2020 [Updated 03-17-20]
- Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 57 Information reported by March 16, 10am CET [Updated 03-18-20]
  - Canada: 424 cases (Updated by PHAC to 569 on March 17 at 8:00pm) [Updated 03-18-20]
  - Globally: 179,111 cases [Updated 03-18-20]
  - USA: 3503 cases (Updated by the CDC to 4226 on March 17 at 4pm) [Updated 03-18-20]
Symptom Chart:

**Symptoms of COVID-19, cold, influenza**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symptoms</th>
<th>COVID-19</th>
<th>Influenza (Flu)</th>
<th>Cold</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dry cough</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fever</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuffy nose</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sore throat</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shortness of breath</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headache</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body aches</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>+++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sneezing</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>- -</td>
<td>+++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exhaustion</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>+++</td>
<td>++</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarrhea</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>++</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

+++ Frequent  ++ Sometimes  + Occasionally  - Rare  -- Not observed

*Being in close contact with someone who does not have COVID-19, but was exposed to someone with COVID-19, does not require specific public health follow up.* (Toronto Public Health)