



Box 1809  
Swift Current, SK S9H 4J8  
Phone Toll Free: 1-877-321-9200  
Phone: (306) 778-9200  
Fax: (306) 773-8011

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RE: Coronavirus update from Saskatchewan Ministry of Health

Dear families:

We are sharing some information to help ensure the health and safety of students and staff in Chinook schools. The Public Health Agency of Canada is monitoring the situation, and we are taking our direction from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health.

***The Saskatchewan Ministry of Health has indicated that the risk to Canadians of coronavirus is low.***

Provincial health officials say it is safe for students to attend school if they have travelled from China and show no symptoms of respiratory illness (fever, cough, difficulty breathing).

If students have travelled to China -- specifically Wuhan and Hubei province -- *and* have cough and cold-like symptoms, please keep them at home and you should contact HealthLine 811 or their healthcare provider with information on their symptoms and travel history. Please report any absences to the school as you normally would.

*At this time, there is a risk only to those who have cough and cold symptoms and have travelled to a part of the world with 2019-nCoV outbreaks.*

The Ministry of Health also indicates that if a student had a cough and came to school but has now gone home to recover, the risk to others is also very low. Though it is likely there may be limited human-to-human spread of the coronavirus between close contacts (e.g. members in the same household), there has been no indication at this time that this coronavirus is easily spread beyond close contacts.

If Saskatchewan has a lab-confirmed case of coronavirus, public health will follow up with close contacts.

Information about coronavirus, travel advisories and the risk to residents is available on the [Saskatchewan Ministry of Health website](#).

**Please contact your healthcare provider or the Saskatchewan Health Authority (public health) if you have any questions or concerns.**

*The content on the next page from the Government of Canada provides details about the virus, symptoms and other information.*

## From the [Government of Canada](#)

### About coronaviruses

Coronaviruses (CoV) are a large family of viruses that cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases. Some coronaviruses transmit between animals, some between animals and people, and others from people to people.

### Symptoms of coronavirus infections

Coronavirus infections are common and typically lead to the common cold. Gastrointestinal disease is possible for young infants. Symptoms are usually mild to moderate and can include:

- runny nose
- headache
- cough
- sore throat
- fever
- a general feeling of being unwell

Although rare, other types of coronavirus infections cause illnesses such as [Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome \(SARS\)](#) and [Middle East Respiratory Syndrome \(MERS\)](#) can produce more severe illnesses such as pneumonia, respiratory failure, kidney failure, or even death.

### If you get a coronavirus infection

If you have cold-like symptoms, you can help protect others by doing the following:

- stay home while sick
- avoid close contact with others
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands
- clean and disinfect objects and surfaces

### How coronavirus infections are diagnosed

Coronavirus infections are diagnosed by a health care provider based on symptoms and laboratory tests. In some cases, travel history may be important.

### Coronavirus infection treatment

For now, there is no specific treatments for most people with coronavirus infection. Most people with common coronavirus illness will recover on their own. Your health care provider may recommend steps you can take to relieve symptoms.

Consult your health care provider as soon as possible if you are concerned about your symptoms or have a [travel history to a region](#) where severe coronaviruses are known to occur. The sooner you get treatment, the better your chances are for recovery.

Additional information and updates can be found on the [Government of Canada's website](#).