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CANADA

## Here's what you need to know about Canada's first 'presumptive' coronavirus case



BY [MARYAM SHAH](#) - GLOBAL NEWS

Posted January 25, 2020 9:33 pm

Updated January 25, 2020 10:57 pm



— WATCH: First "presumptive" coronavirus case in Canada as China raises emergency response

-A A+

A case  
Jan. 25



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## What do we know so far about this case?

A man in his 50s travelled from Wuhan to Guangzhou, [China](#) before arriving in Toronto on Jan. 22. Public health officials say he became ill within a day and self-reported by having a family member call 911.

"The emergency service was aware of his travel history. They used full precautions," said Dr. Barbare Yaffe of Toronto Public Health at a Saturday press conference.



**GovCanHealth** @GovCanHealth · 10h

Replying to @GovCanHealth

2/3 🇨🇦's disease prevention & control systems are designed to quickly detect & contain the spread of infectious diseases. Systems have been & remain on alert across the country, hence the risk to Canadians remains low at this time.

[#2019nCoV](#). Learn more: [ow.ly/q4QF30qckjg](https://ow.ly/q4QF30qckjg)



**GovCanHealth**

@GovCanHealth

3/3 @PublicHealthON has confirmed that the patient is isolated, and that all necessary precautions are being taken to prevent the spread of [#2019nCoV](#). [#coronavirus](#)

22 10:24 PM - Jan 25, 2020

[See GovCanHealth's other Tweets](#)

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The man was taken to Sunnybrook Hospital with fever and respiratory symptoms, and is currently in stable condition in a negative-pressure room, with staff taking precautions.

A test from the Public Health Ontario Laboratory confirmed the diagnosis. Toronto Public Health has been speaking with the man to determine exactly who he's had contact with.

**READ MORE: [Canada's 1st 'presumptive' case of new coronavirus discovered in Toronto](#)**

"The last word I heard was there was very little by way of contact," says Dr. Eileen de Villa, the city's medical officer of health.

She added that their understanding is that the man took "private transportation" home, not mass transportation.

"But we are absolutely making sure that we get the history of all the places the individual has been. That's part of regular public health practice, in order that we can then determine who needs to be informed and what sorts of measures they need to take," she said.



**Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre** @Sunnyb... · 15h

Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre is caring for a patient who has a confirmed case of the novel coronavirus that



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**Patient admitted with novel coronavirus**

[sunnybrook.ca](http://sunnybrook.ca)



**Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre**

@Sunnybrook

Sunnybrook remains open and clinics and procedures will continue to operate as per normal. The hospital is safe for patients and visitors.

125 5:42 PM - Jan 25, 2020

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Yaffe says it's important to keep the situation in context.

“The ev  
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This ma

who

have already been put into self-isolation and are being monitored.

5:38

Unpacking the potentially deadly coronavirus and p...

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— Unpacking the potentially deadly coronavirus and possible protections

## What does a presumptive confirmed or presumptive positive case mean?

The presumptive positive result comes from a local “rapid” test that gives health authorities a head-start on their work, according to Dr. Peter Donnelly from Public Health Ontario.

Public Health Ontario developed a “specific accurate and rapid test” for the novel coronavirus, he said. The National Microbiology Laboratory in [Winnipeg](#) also has a test, albeit slightly different.

The laboratories collaborate with each other, he explained.

“What v  
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“So in c

The presumptive positive result becomes a confirmed case once the Winnipeg laboratory provides its result.

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## The risk is ‘still low’

Dr. David Williams, chief medical officer for Ontario, says the risk to Ontarians “is still low.”

“The system we’d hoped would work as it is, and it did,” he said.

Federal Health Minister Patty Hadju too [said the risk remains low](#). In a statement Saturday, she said, “While the risk of an outbreak of novel coronavirus in Canada remains low, I encourage Canadians to tell your

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and dev



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"I want to assure all Ontarians that this is exactly what transpired," she said.

**READ MORE: [Demand for face masks on the rise amid coronavirus outbreak — but are they effective?](#)**

She stressed that the patient was detected and "immediately put in isolation," with lab tests ordered and Toronto Public Health launching "extensive case and contact management" to prevent any further spread.

"The system is working," Elliott said. "These protocols and procedures have been in place for some time.

"To be clear, health officials are actively working to ensure that we identify everyone this person was in contact with in order to contain this virus."

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Canada  
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Replying to @CPHO\_Canada

2/5 The patient has been isolated and is being managed with all appropriate infection prevention and control protocols.

[#coronavirus](#) [#2019nCoV](#)



**Dr. Theresa Tam**

@CPHO\_Canada

3/5 Canada's disease prevention and control systems are designed to quickly detect and contain the spread of infectious diseases and have done so in this case. Systems have been and remain vigilant across the country.

[#coronavirus](#) [#2019nCoV](#)

22 8:25 PM - Jan 25, 2020

[See Dr. Theresa Tam's other Tweets](#)

The province is in a “very different place” than it was during SARS in the early 2000s, according to Donnelly.

“We know what the virus is,” he said. “We have a fast, reliable test for it. That really is a game-changer.”

Having the local fast testing means “you can very quickly find out whether people have this or not.”

“You can follow up their contacts,” Donnelly said. “Where its appropriate, you can test them.

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“These are the tools that you need in order to control this and to stop its spread.”

Donnelly also said it's important to bear in mind that most people will likely have a mild form of the virus.

“Many people in China probably don't even know they've had it, haven't sought medical care, or if they have sought medical care, they've recovered quite quickly,” he said.

2:13

Coronavirus outbreak: Toronto hospital details resp...

— Coronavirus outbreak: Toronto hospital details response when presumptive case arrived

**What can people do?**

Here's t

[webpag](#)

Provinc

number



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- washing hands often
- avoiding contact with people who are unwell
- practicing proper cough and sneeze etiquette

The province also says that anyone travelling to an area with known cases of coronavirus should avoid the following:

- high-risk areas such as farms, live animal markets and areas where animals may be slaughtered
- contact with animals (alive or dead), including pigs, chickens, ducks and wild birds
- surfaces with animal secretions or feces

Federal health officials echo similar advice, with Minister Hadju reminding those who have travelled to an affected area of China and subsequently developed flu-like symptoms to reach out to their health care professional.

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not be unexpected, the risk of an outbreak in Canada remains low. More info: [canada.ca/en/public-heal...](https://canada.ca/en/public-health)



**Dr. Theresa Tam**  
@CPHO\_Canada

5/5 Cdns can take precautions to prevent respiratory illnesses like [#coronavirus](#) [#2019nCoV](#), including:

- ✓ frequent [#handwashing](#) w/ soap & water for at least 20 seconds
- ✓ [#Elbowsneeze](#) & avoid touching eyes, nose, mouth
- ✓ Avoid contact with sick people

55 8:25 PM - Jan 25, 2020

[53 people are talking about this](#)

## Can we expect more cases?

Possibly. Provincial and federal health officials have indicated they would not be surprised to see more confirmed cases.

Williams said that Ontario has been waiting for its first case.

“I would think with the amount of flow and traffic and stuff, we might see some others,” he said. Health officials remain vigilant in their monitoring, he added.



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A background on the coronavirus and its symptoms

— A background on the coronavirus and its symptoms

“I would be very surprised if this is our last case,” Williams said. “But we have to wait to see.”

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In a tweet Saturday evening, Dr. Tam from the Public Health Agency of Canada said: “While additional confirmed [#2019nCoV](#) cases would not be unexpected, the risk of an outbreak in Canada remains low.”

**Dr. Theresa Tam** @CPHO\_Canada · 12h



Replying to @CPHO\_Canada

3/5 Canada's disease prevention and control systems are designed to quickly detect and contain the spread of infectious diseases and have done so in this case. Systems have been and remain vigilant across the country. [#coronavirus](#) [#2019nCoV](#)



**Dr. Theresa Tam**  
@CPHO\_Canada



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21 people are talking about this

As of Saturday, the World Health Organization said there were 23 confirmed cases outside of China, with 21 of them having travel history to Wuhan City.

The international organization has not changed its risk assessment of the situation since Jan. 22, deeming it “very high in China, high at the regional level and moderate at the global level.”

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**World Health Organization (WHO)**  
@WHO

WHO's risk assessment of the new [#coronavirus](#) (2019-nCoV) situation has not changed:

- ▲ very high in [#China](#) 🇨🇳
- ▲ high at the regional level
- ▲ moderate at the global level



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When coughing and sneezing cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue – throw tissue away immediately and wash hands



Avoid close contact with anyone that has fever and cough

Thoroughly cook meat and eggs



Avoid unprotected contact with live wild or farm animals



World Health Organization

3,498 6:27 PM - Jan 25, 2020

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More than 2,000 people globally have been infected with the new coronavirus, the vast majority of them in China, where 56 people have died from the disease and 1,975 are confirmed cases, according to figures released on Sunday.

The virus is believed to have originated late last year in a seafood market in the central Chinese city of Wuhan that was illegally selling wildlife. It has spread to Chinese cities including Beijing and Shanghai, as well as the United States, Thailand, South Korea, Japan, Australia, France, and now Canada.

— *With files from Reuters*

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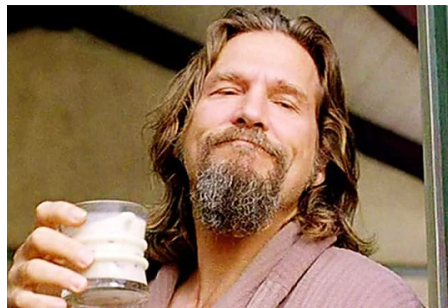
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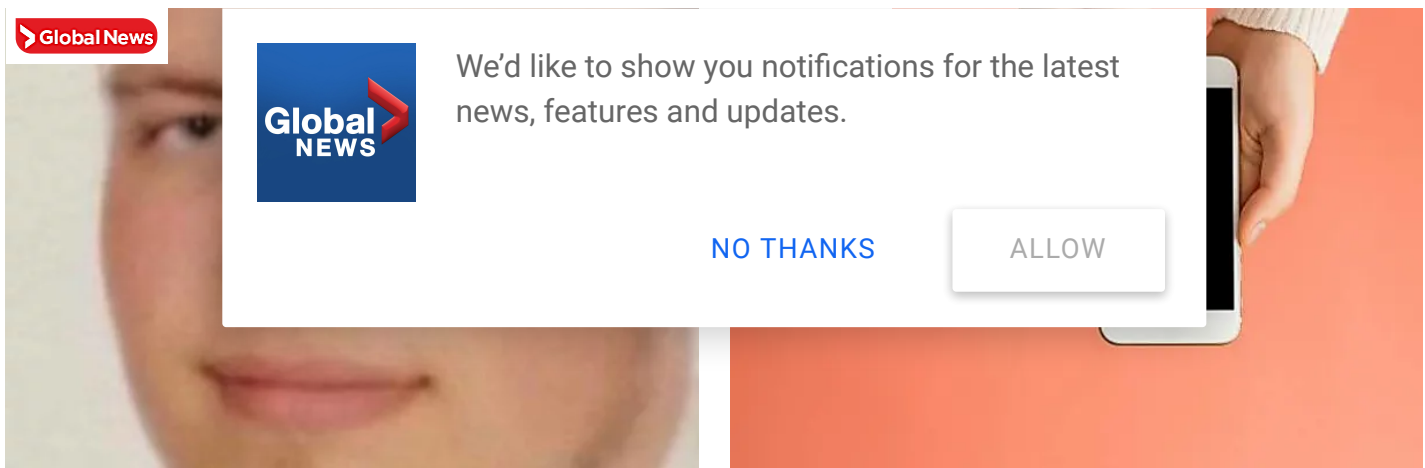
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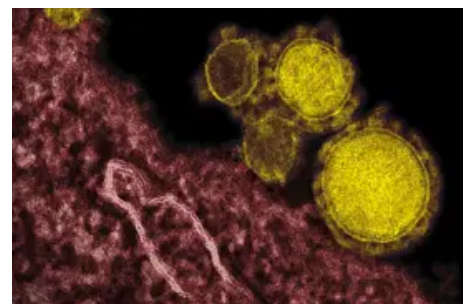
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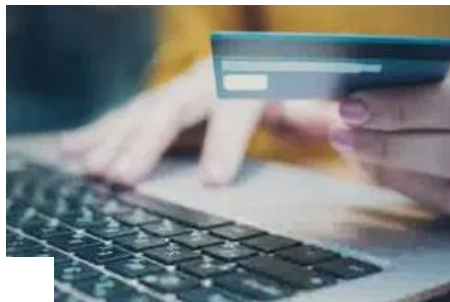
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**Billie Bow**

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**Muhammad Anwar**

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**Lester Robinson**

Too late..flights should have been cancelled weeks ago!!! Overall this is a poor performance on everyone's people that were on the plane with the confirmed case should be quarantined!! They are future carriers!! G together Canada, and the world for that matter!! Good luck trying to catch the wild horse now!!

Like · Reply · 1 · 2h



**MW McHaffie**

Forgot to say, Stay home if you are ill. Too many people go to work sick and then everyone gets sick.

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