

## Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

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**From:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** January 7, 2020 8:47 PM  
**To:** Danuta Skowronski; XT:Patrick, David HLTH:IN; XT:Krajden, Mel HLTH:IN; Massey, Keren L HLTH:EX  
**Subject:** Fwd: Update: Pneumonia of Unknown Cause in China  
**Attachments:** HSIB\_ML\_China Resp Illness\_2020-01-07\_FINAL.docx; ATT00001.htm

FYI

Dr Bonnie Henry  
Provincial Health Officer  
Ministry of Health  
Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca  
250 952-1330

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC)" <phac.ccmoh.secretariat-cmhc.aspc@canada.ca>  
**Date:** January 7, 2020 at 6:23:41 PM PST  
**To:** "Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX" <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>, "XT:Hanley, Brendan HLTH:IN" <Brendan.Hanley@gov.yk.ca>, David Williams <Dr.David.Williams@ontario.ca>, Deena Hinshaw <deena.hinshaw@gov.ab.ca>, "Dr. Brent Roussin" <brent.roussin@gov.mb.ca>, "XT:Adams, Evan HLTH:IN" <evan.adams@fnha.ca>, George Giovinazzo <george.giovinazzo@cic.gc.ca>, "Morrison, Heather (Ext.)" <hgmorrison@gov.pe.ca>, "Arruda, Horacio (Ext.)" <horacio.arruda@msss.gouv.qc.ca>, James Worthington <Dr.James.Worthington@CSC-SCC.GC.CA>, Janice Fitzgerald <janice.fitzgerald@gov.nl.ca>, "Russell, Jennifer (Ext.)" <jennifer.russell@gnb.ca>, "Kandola, Kami (Ext.)" <kami\_kandola@gov.nt.ca>, Micahel Patterson <mpatterson@gov.nu.ca>, Pierre Morissette <Pierre.Morissette@forces.gc.ca>, "Strang, Robert (Ext.)" <robert.strang@gov.ns.ca>, "Shahab, Saqib (Ext.)" <saqib.shahab@health.gov.sk.ca>, "Sharma, Supriya (HC/SC)" <supriya.sharma@canada.ca>, "Tam, Dr Theresa (PHAC/ASPC)" <drtheresa.tam@canada.ca>, "Wong, Tom (SAC/ISC)" <tom.wong@canada.ca>  
**Cc:** "Hill, Allison (HC/SC)" <allison.hill@canada.ca>, Andy Dellipizzi <andy\_dellipizzi@gov.nt.ca>, "Auger, Julie (PHAC/ASPC)" <julie.auger@canada.ca>, "Bent, Stephen (PHAC/ASPC)" <stephen.bent@canada.ca>, "Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX" <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>, "Carter, Luke (HC/SC)" <luke.carter@canada.ca>, "CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC)" <phac.ccmoh.secretariat-cmhc.aspc@canada.ca>, Christine Rathwell <Christine.Rathwell@health.gov.sk.ca>, Cindy Kruger <cindy.kruger@csc-scc.gc.ca>, "Rogers, Cindy (Ext.)" <cindy.rogers@health.gov.sk.ca>, Colleen Dudar <Colleen.Dudar@gov.mb.ca>, "Muecke, Cristin (Ext.)" <dr.cristin.muecke@gnb.ca>, "Sabapathy, David (Ext.)" <dsabapathy@gov.pe.ca>, "Auger, Danielle (Ext.)" <danielle.auger@msss.gouv.qc.ca>, "Davies, Stephanie (PHAC/ASPC)" <stephanie.davies@canada.ca>, "Panchyshyn, Debbie (Ext.)" <debbie.panchyshyn@gov.mb.ca>, "Denis, Joel (PHAC/ASPC)" <joe.denis@canada.ca>, Diane Lu <Diane.Lu@forces.gc.ca>, "Dr. Barbara Yaffe" <barbara.yaffe@ontario.ca>, Elaine Barrett-Cramer <Elaine.Barrett-Cramer@cic.gc.ca>, "Look, Elaine (Ext.)" <elaine\_look@gov.nt.ca>, "Fournier, Sarah (PHAC/ASPC)" <sarah.fournier@canada.ca>, "Gallagher, Gerry (PHAC/ASPC)" <gerry.gallagher@canada.ca>, Gillian MacDonald <Gillian.MacDonald2@ontario.ca>, "Henry, Erin (PHAC/ASPC)" <erine.henry@canada.ca>, "Njoo, Howard (PHAC/ASPC)" <howard.njoo@canada.ca>, "Sherren, Janice (Ext.)" <jesherren@gov.pe.ca>, Jasmine Pawa <jpawa@gov.nu.ca>, "XT:Irvine, Jessica HLTH:IN" <Jessica.Irvine@gov.mb.ca>, Johnatha

Smith <Jonathan.Smith@CSC-SCC.GC.CA>, "Follett, Juanita (Ext.)" <juanitafollett@gov.nl.ca>, "Dean, Kelly (Ext.)" <kelly.dean@gov.ns.ca>, "Seeds, Laura (Ext.)" <laura.seeds@ontario.ca>, "Thompson, Laurel HLTH:EX" <Laurel.Thompson@gov.bc.ca>, "Lewis, Darlene (SAC/ISC)" <darlene.lewis@canada.ca>, "XT:Carpenter, Lori HLTH:IN" <lori.carpenter@fnha.ca>, "Yeo, Lyn (Ext.)" <lyn.yeo@health.gov.sk.ca>, "MacDonald2, Tammy (PHAC/ASPC)" <tammy.macdonald2@canada.ca>, "Allarie, Marc (PHAC/ASPC)" <marc.allarie@canada.ca>, Matthew Pals <Matthew.Pals@gov.ab.ca>, Maureen Carew <MAUREEN.CAREW@forces.gc.ca>, "Maher, Maurica (Ext.)" <maurica.maher@forces.gc.ca>, "McCarney, Jane (PHAC/ASPC)" <jane.mccarney@canada.ca>, "McDonald, Alexa (HC/SC)" <alexa.mcdonald@canada.ca>, "McLeod, Robyn (PHAC/ASPC)" <robyn.mcleod@canada.ca>, Melissa Milks <melissa.milks@cic.gc.ca>, Michelle Craplewe <Michelle.Craplewe@gov.ab.ca>, "Sveinson, Michelle (Ext.)" <michelle.sveinson@gov.mb.ca>, "Mitra, Debjani (PHAC/ASPC)" <debjani.mitra@canada.ca>, OCMHO\_SK <ocmho@health.gov.sk.ca>, "Ogunnaike-Cooke, Susanna (PHAC/ASPC)" <susanna.ogunnaike-cooke@canada.ca>, Rachel Comeau <rachel.comeau@gnb.ca>, Rachel Mailhot <Rachel.mailhot@cic.gc.ca>, "PPIU-RO / OR-UPPI (PHAC/ASPC)" <phac.ppiu-ro-or-uppi.aspc@canada.ca>, "Almond, Richard HLTH:EX" <Richard.Almond@gov.bc.ca>, "Robinson, Kerry (PHAC/ASPC)" <kerry.robinson@canada.ca>, "Romano, Anna (PHAC/ASPC)" <anna.romano@canada.ca>, "Poirier, Samantha (Ext.)" <samantha.poirier@gnb.ca>, Shelley Landsburg <shelley.landsburg@gnb.ca>, SK Secretariat <SKPHNCsecretariat@health.gov.sk.ca>, "Taylor, Stephanie MMHA:EX" <Stephanie.Taylor@gov.bc.ca>, Sylvie Poirier <Sylvie.Poirier@msss.gouv.qc.ca>, Tara Goodwin-Chief <tara.goodwin-chief@gov.yk.ca>, "Tosh, Casey (PHAC/ASPC)" <casey.tosh@canada.ca>, Tracey Aylward <TraceyAylward@gov.nl.ca>, Valerie Mann <valerie.mann@health.gov.sk.ca>, Vanessa Blyan <Vanessa.Blyan@gov.ab.ca>, Yoon Suk Cho <yoonsuk.cho@health.gov.sk.ca>

**Subject: Update: Pneumonia of Unknown Cause in China**

*Sent on behalf of Dr. Theresa Tam*

Dear Colleagues,

As a follow-up to my email on January 2<sup>nd</sup> PHAC continues ongoing monitoring, intelligence gathering and international engagement on pneumonia cases in Wuhan, China to inform Canadian public health action.

- As of January 5, 2020, Wuhan Municipal Health Commission has reported 59 cases of undiagnosed pneumonia in Wuhan, China, 7 cases identified as in critical condition, no deaths.
- No new cases have been identified since December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- There has been no evidence to date of spread from person to person, and no infections in health care workers.
- Cause of the pneumonia remains unknown; however, influenza, avian influenza, adenovirus, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) have been ruled out.
- A World Health Organization (WHO) risk assessment of January 5, 2020, found that there is limited information to determine the overall risk, noting that their existing recommendations on public health measures and surveillance of influenza and severe acute respiratory infections still apply, and advising against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China.

PHAC has issued a Travel Health Advisory (links below), reinforcing regular recommendations for travellers to China, including avoidance of live animal markets. Routine border health measures are in place. CBSA has been engaged and has confirmed that they are on alert and prepared should further border measures be required. There is no evidence to support any additional border measures at this time.

Travel Health Advisory: *Pneumonia of Unknown Cause in China / Pneumonie de cause inconnue en Chine*

EN: <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories/pneumonia-china>

FR: <https://voyage.gc.ca/voyager/avertissements/pneumonie-china>

For your use, updated Media Lines are attached (French lines to follow).

Theresa

Dr. Theresa Tam, BMBS (UK), FRCPC

Chief Public Health Officer of Canada

Public Health Agency of Canada

[drtheresa.tam@canada.ca](mailto:drtheresa.tam@canada.ca) / Tel: 613-954-0594

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Administratrice en chef de la santé publique du Canada

Agence de la santé publique du Canada

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Suivez-moi sur [Twitter](#)



## MEDIA LINES

### Pneumonia of unknown cause – Wuhan, Central Hubei, China

#### Issue Statement:

On December 31, 2019, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission in the Hubei province in China issued a public statement that they have identified cases of pneumonia of unknown cause associated with a local live seafood market.

Chinese authorities report that there is no evidence of person-to-person spread at this time. The local live seafood market has been closed and a full investigation, including laboratory testing, of these cases is underway to identify the cause of the illness.

While the cause of the illnesses in Wuhan, China is still under investigation, SARS, avian and human influenza viruses, MERS-CoV, adenovirus and common respiratory pathogens have been ruled out. Pathogen identification and tracing of the cause is ongoing.

The World Health Organization is actively monitoring the situation and issued updated information on the outbreak, a risk assessment and advice on public health measures and surveillance. The WHO notes it does not recommend travel measures or restrictions.

PHAC has updated the China travel page on [travel.gc.ca](https://travel.gc.ca) to include a travel health notice.

#### Key Messages:

- The Public Health Agency of Canada is monitoring the situation regarding a cluster of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan, China.
- The risk to Canada and to Canadians is low.
- Canadians travelling abroad are encouraged to consult the Travel Health Notice (<https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/china>) for China on [travel.gc.ca](https://travel.gc.ca).
- The Government of Canada and provinces and territories have multiple systems in place to identify, prevent and control the spread of serious infectious diseases into and within Canada.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada is actively monitoring the situation and working with global and domestic partners. Canada's Chief Public Health Officer of Canada is in close contact with provincial and territorial Chief Medical Officers of Health to share information as it becomes available.

#### Global Health Security

- Today, more than ever, public health risks in one part of the world can threaten the health of people worldwide.



- In an increasingly globalized world, stopping the spread of infectious diseases requires strong international collaboration.
- The Government of Canada is prepared to respond to public health emergencies and takes precautions to prevent the introduction and spread of communicable diseases into and out of Canada.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada works closely with international partners to detect emerging infectious diseases through early alerting and reporting systems.
- Through the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations, the Public Health Agency of Canada collaborates with global partners to share information within hours of the identification of a public health threat.

**If asked if any Canadians have been impacted:**

- Currently, there are no suspected cases in Canada and we are not aware of any cases involving Canadians overseas.

**If asked about advice for travellers:**

- The Public Health Agency of Canada has issued a Travel Health Notice (<https://travel.gc.ca/destinations/china>) for individuals travelling to Wuhan, China.
- The Travel Health Notice recommends that travellers avoid:
  - 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; and
  - surfaces with animal droppings or secretions on them.
- The Travel Health Notice also reminds travellers to follow usual health precautions such as washing their hands often and practising proper cough and sneeze etiquette.
- No matter where Canadians plan to travel, the Public Health Agency of Canada recommends that they consult [www.travel.gc.ca](http://www.travel.gc.ca), which is the Government of Canada's official source of destination-specific travel information. It provides important advice to help travellers make informed decisions and travel safely while abroad.
- Canadians should always tell their health care providers about their travel if they become ill after returning to Canada.

**If asked about border measures:**

- At this point, there is no evidence to support any additional border measures.



## Questions and Answers:

### Q1. Would Canada close its borders to prevent spread of this pneumonia into Canada?

- No, at this time (January 7, 2020) there is no evidence to support implementing additional border measures. China is taking appropriate actions to identify, diagnose and contain the situation, including:
  - China National Health Commission has sent an expert team to Wuhan;
  - China Centre for Disease Control is conducting a field investigation;
  - Laboratory testing is underway for respiratory pathogens;
  - All cases are undergoing treatment and close contacts of the cases are being tracked; and
  - The implicated exposure site (Hua Nan Seafood Wholesale Market) has been closed.
- The World Health Organization has been engaged and is actively monitoring the situation. The World Health Organization advises against the application of any travel restrictions at this time.

### Q2. How does Canada prevent the spread of infectious diseases?

- The Government of Canada and the provinces and territories have multiple systems in place to identify, prevent and control the spread of serious infectious diseases into and within Canada.
- These include a global public health intelligence monitoring system which scans the world's open source media, strong partnerships and collaboration internationally, and information sharing across the public health system in Canada.
- Canada's public health laboratory system is well-equipped to detect serious infectious diseases.

## BACKGROUND:

- Canada has a robust system to address health issues at our borders.
- The Public Health Agency administers the *Quarantine Act* to screen and assess travellers for signs of communicable diseases at international points of entry. The *Quarantine Act* is administered 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, at all points of entry into Canada



- The *Quarantine Act* requires travellers to report to a Canada Borders Services Agency agent if they are ill upon arrival. As well, airlines and airport authorities are required to report ill travellers arriving on international flights to the Public Health Agency of Canada's Central Notification System, which is administered by quarantine officers who have the authority to implement public health measures under the *Quarantine Act*.
- Together with the Canada Border Services Agency, the Public Health Agency of Canada helps to reduce the spread of serious communicable diseases and informs travellers at points of entry of actions they should take if they begin to experience symptoms of illness.

## Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

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**From:** Tam, Dr Theresa (PHAC/ASPC) <drtheresa.tam@canada.ca>  
**Sent:** January 11, 2020 2:42 PM  
**To:** CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC); Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; XT:Hanley, Brendan HLTH:IN; Dr.David.Williams@ontario.ca; Deena Hinshaw; Dr. Brent Roussin; Morrison, Heather (Ext.); Arruda, Horacio (Ext.); Janice Fitzgerald; Russell, Jennifer (Ext.); Robert.Strang@novascotia.ca; Shahab, Saqib (Ext.); Michael Patterson; Kandola, Kami (Ext.)  
**Cc:** Njoo, Howard (PHAC/ASPC); Robinson, Kerry (PHAC/ASPC)  
**Subject:** Update: Pneumonia cases in Wuhan, China

Hi Colleagues,

While PHAC's risk assessment to the pneumonia cases in Wuhan has not changed, here is a quick update given the evolving information available.

- The genetic sequencing of the novel coronavirus suspected of being the cause of at least some of the pneumonia cases in the outbreak in Wuhan, China has been submitted to Genbank. The sequence was also published on January 10, 2020 (<http://virological.org/t/initial-genome-release-of-novel-coronavirus/319>).
- PHAC's National Microbiology Laboratory (NML) is now proceeding with the development and implementation of diagnostic tests with the availability of this information.
- The Wuhan Municipal Health Commission has reported that, one of cases, a 61 year old man died on January 9, 2020 from severe pneumonia after his heart stopped, adding that he had underlying health conditions, including abdominal tumors and chronic liver disease.
- The WHO has updated information on their website, including technical guidance (<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>). The materials have largely been adapted from existing MERS-CoV guidance, using currently available information on the outbreak in China.

Draft WHO technical guidance is available for:

- (1) Surveillance case definitions for human infection with novel coronavirus;
- (2) Interim guidance on laboratory testing of human cases suspected of nCoV infection;
- (3) Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) during health care when novel coronavirus (nCoV) infection is suspected;
- (4) Guidance on risk communication and community engagement and initial response;

WHO guidance for clinical management will be ready in the coming days as additional review is required by expert networks.

- While there are still a lot of unknowns, the risk of Canadians in Wuhan acquiring pneumonia of unknown cause linked to the outbreak is considered to be low. Assessment of public health risk to Canada remains low. Risk will be re-assessed as appropriate as further information becomes available.



## Background Summary:

- The Wuhan Municipal Health Commission has published an update on January 11, 2020 and indicated that 41 cases of pneumonia with a new coronavirus infection were initially diagnosed, of which two have been discharged. Seven cases were severe, and one has died. The remaining patients were in stable condition. No new cases have been detected since January 3, 2020.
- A total of 739 close contacts, including 419 medical staff, have undergone medical observation and no related cases have been found.
- On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Chinese state broadcaster CCTV reported that Chinese scientists have identified a new strain of coronavirus in some patients diagnosed with pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan, China. The genetic sequence was published by scientists on January 10, 2020.
- Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that can cause a wide range of illness, ranging from the common cold to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).
- Although the genetic sequence of the newly identified coronavirus has now been published, significant additional information is still required to fully understand how the disease is transmitted and the severity of illness it causes in humans.
- Seasonal influenza, avian influenza, adenovirus, SARS and MERS, have previously been ruled out as causes.
- Chinese authorities continue to investigate the linkage of these cases to Wuhan South China Seafood City (also called the South China Seafood Wholesale Market and the Hua Nan Seafood Market), which has been closed since January 1, 2020.

Look forward to the call next week.

Theresa

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 7, 2020, at 9:22 PM, CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC) <[phac.ccmoh.secretariat-cmhc.aspc@canada.ca](mailto:phac.ccmoh.secretariat-cmhc.aspc@canada.ca)> wrote:

*Sent on behalf of Dr. Theresa Tam*

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Theresa

Dr. Theresa Tam, BMBS (UK), FRCPC  
Chief Public Health Officer of Canada  
Public Health Agency of Canada  
[drtheresa.tam@canada.ca](mailto:drtheresa.tam@canada.ca) / Tel: 613-954-0594  
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Administratrice en chef de la santé publique du Canada  
Agence de la santé publique du Canada  
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Suivez-moi sur [Twitter](#)

<HSIB\_ML\_China Resp Illness\_2020-01-07\_FINAL.docx>

## Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

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**From:** Tam, Dr Theresa (PHAC/ASPC) <drtheresa.tam@canada.ca>  
**Sent:** January 2, 2020 10:22 AM  
**To:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; XT:Hanley, Brendan HLTH:IN; 'Dr. Janice Fitzgerald'; Morrison, Heather (Ext.); Strang, Robert (Ext.); Russell, Jennifer (Ext.); Arruda, Horacio (Ext.); 'David Williams'; 'Brent Roussin (SAC/ISC)'; Shahab, Saqib (Ext.); 'Deena Hinshaw'; 'Michael Patterson'; Kandola, Kami (Ext.)  
**Subject:** Undiagnosed viral pneumonia in China

Dear Colleagues,

As you may be aware, health authorities in China (Wuhan, Hubei province) are currently investigating a cluster of an as yet undiagnosed viral pneumonia (per the ProMed-mail posts below), primarily among stall-holders at a Seafood Wholesale Market.

I am reaching out to you now to let you know that PHAC is actively monitoring the situation and reaching out to WHO and other international partners to gain additional information. In the meantime while we continue to closely monitor the situation, we are conducting a rapid assessment of preparedness and preparing communications lines. The latter will be shared with you through the PHN communications network and CCMOH secretariat shortly.

Currently the key points to be aware of

- **There is no evidence of human to human transmission**, and importantly no cases among healthcare worker contacts reported to date
- Local authorities in Wuhan have shut down the Seafood Wholesale Market associated with this cluster and disinfection practices have been implemented
- Authorities in Wuhan/China being transparent in reporting and WHO is engaged
- Key transit points (Taiwan and Hong Kong) have implemented border measures

Rest assured, as new information comes available we will keep you informed.

Happy New Year,  
Theresa

**Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX**

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**From:** Tam, Dr Theresa (PHAC/ASPC) <drtheresa.tam@canada.ca>  
**Sent:** January 8, 2020 4:14 PM  
**To:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** dr.david.williams@ontario.ca; Arruda, Horacio (Ext.)  
**Subject:** Re: Including provincial PHAs in situational awareness emails

Thanks Bonnie

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 8, 2020, at 18:23, Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca> wrote:  
>  
> I think that is a good idea. I forward the CCMOH updates to BCCDC but am happy for them to be on the initial notifications.  
> b  
>  
> Dr Bonnie Henry  
> Provincial Health Officer  
> Office of the PHO  
> Ministry of Health  
> 4th floor, 1515 Blanshard St  
> Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT Victoria, BC V8W 9P4  
> Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca  
>  
> Phone: 250 952-1330  
>  
> I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional  
> unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees  
> and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em  
>  
> Warning: This email is intended only for the use of the individual or organization to whom it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged or confidential. Any distribution, disclosure, copying, or other use by anyone else is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please telephone or e-mail the sender immediately and delete the message.  
>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Tam, Dr Theresa (PHAC/ASPC) <drtheresa.tam@canada.ca>  
> Sent: January 8, 2020 3:15 PM  
> To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>;  
> dr.david.williams@ontario.ca; Arruda, Horacio (Ext.)  
> <horacio.arruda@msss.gouv.qc.ca>  
> Subject: Including provincial PHAs in situational awareness emails  
>  
>  
> Hi all,  
>  
> I have been trying to strengthen linkages with the provincial Public health agencies.  
>

> For situational updates / awareness emails that regarding an emerging PH event I thought that it would be good to copy the heads of the 3 prov agencies ;or forward the CCMOH email shortly after you receive it. In any case I know the CPHLN link up very fast and so does the FPT comms network. I think an informal protocol to link the provincial agencies is a good idea. Just like IHR notifications I think sending info as we know it through CNPHI platform should also be done.

>

> We can discuss further but thought I would get your initial reaction.

>

> TT

>

>

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone

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**Cc:** Njoo, Howard (PHAC/ASPC); Robinson, Kerry (PHAC/ASPC)  
**Subject:** Update: Pneumonia cases in Wuhan, China

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- On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the Chinese state broadcaster CCTV reported that Chinese scientists have identified a new strain of coronavirus in some patients diagnosed with pneumonia of unknown cause in Wuhan, China. The genetic sequence was published by scientists on January 10, 2020.
- Coronaviruses are a group of viruses that can cause a wide range of illness, ranging from the common cold to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS).
- Although the genetic sequence of the newly identified coronavirus has now been published, significant additional information is still required to fully understand how the disease is transmitted and the severity of illness it causes in humans.
- Seasonal influenza, avian influenza, adenovirus, SARS and MERS, have previously been ruled out as causes.
- Chinese authorities continue to investigate the linkage of these cases to Wuhan South China Seafood City (also called the South China Seafood Wholesale Market and the Hua Nan Seafood Market), which has been closed since January 1, 2020.

Look forward to the call next week.

Theresa

Sent from my iPad

On Jan 7, 2020, at 9:22 PM, CCMOH SECRETARIAT / CMHC (PHAC/ASPC) <[phac.ccmoh.secretariat-cmhc.aspc@canada.ca](mailto:phac.ccmoh.secretariat-cmhc.aspc@canada.ca)> wrote:

*Sent on behalf of Dr. Theresa Tam*

Dear Colleagues,

As a follow-up to my email on January 2<sup>nd</sup> PHAC continues ongoing monitoring, intelligence gathering and international engagement on pneumonia cases in Wuhan, China to inform Canadian public health action.

- As of January 5, 2020, Wuhan Municipal Health Commission has reported 59 cases of undiagnosed pneumonia in Wuhan, China, 7 cases identified as in critical condition, no deaths.
- No new cases have been identified since December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019.
- There has been no evidence to date of spread from person to person, and no infections in health care workers.
- Cause of the pneumonia remains unknown; however, influenza, avian influenza, adenovirus, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) have been ruled out.

- A World Health Organization (WHO) risk assessment of January 5, 2020, found that there is limited information to determine the overall risk, noting that their existing recommendations on public health measures and surveillance of influenza and severe acute respiratory infections still apply, and advising against the application of any travel or trade restrictions on China.

PHAC has issued a Travel Health Advisory (links below), reinforcing regular recommendations for travellers to China, including avoidance of live animal markets. Routine border health measures are in place. CBSA has been engaged and has confirmed that they are on alert and prepared should further border measures be required. There is no evidence to support any additional border measures at this time.

Travel Health Advisory: *Pneumonia of Unknown Cause in China / Pneumonie de cause inconnue en Chine*

EN: <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories/pneumonia-china>

FR: <https://voyage.gc.ca/voyager/avertissements/pneumonie-china>

For your use, updated Media Lines are attached (French lines to follow).

Theresa

Dr. Theresa Tam, BMBS (UK), FRCPC  
Chief Public Health Officer of Canada  
Public Health Agency of Canada  
[drtheresa.tam@canada.ca](mailto:drtheresa.tam@canada.ca) / Tel: 613-954-0594  
Follow me on [Twitter](#)

Administratrice en chef de la santé publique du Canada  
Agence de la santé publique du Canada  
[drtheresa.tam@canada.ca](mailto:drtheresa.tam@canada.ca) / Tél: 613-954-0594  
Suivez-moi sur [Twitter](#)

<HSIB\_ML\_China Resp Illness\_2020-01-07\_FINAL.docx>



## Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

---

**From:** Williams, Dr. David (MOHLTC) <Dr.David.Williams@ontario.ca>  
**Sent:** January 9, 2020 4:50 AM  
**To:** Tam, Dr Theresa (PHAC/ASPC); Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; Arruda, Horacio (Ext.)  
**Subject:** Re: Including provincial PHAs in situational awareness emails

Hi Theresa

I have had discussions with Peter Donnelly over the past two months on how we can utilize our Agencies to further the Public Health dialogue and Knowledge on a FPT perspective.

After our meeting in Montreal and the excellent presentation by INSPQ I had asked Peter if the three agencies could undertake a joint study to look at the clear differences that the Opioid Crisis had in our respective jurisdictions.

So we should discuss the further perhaps a meeting of the four of us and our agency CEO's.

David

Get Outlook for Android

---

**From:** Tam, Dr Theresa (PHAC/ASPC) <drtheresa.tam@canada.ca>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020 6:15:16 PM  
**To:** Henry, Bonnie (Ext.) <bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca>; Williams, Dr. David (MOHLTC) <Dr.David.Williams@ontario.ca>; Arruda, Horacio (Ext.) <horacio.arruda@msss.gouv.qc.ca>  
**Subject:** Including provincial PHAs in situational awareness emails

CAUTION -- EXTERNAL E-MAIL - Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender.

Hi all,

I have been trying to strengthen linkages with the provincial Public health agencies.

For situational updates / awareness emails that regarding an emerging PH event I thought that it would be good to copy the heads of the 3 prov agencies ;or forward the CCMOH email shortly after you receive it. In any case I know the CPHLN link up very fast and so does the FPT comms network. I think an informal protocol to link the provincial agencies is a good idea. Just like IHR notifications I think sending info as we know it through CNPHI platform should also be done.

We can discuss further but thought I would get your initial reaction.

TT

Sent from my iPhone

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**Sent:** Wednesday, January 8, 2020 6:15:16 PM  
**To:** Henry, Bonnie (Ext.) <bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca>; Williams, Dr. David (MOHLTC) <Dr.David.Williams@ontario.ca>;

Arruda, Horacio (Ext.) <horacio.arruda@msss.gouv.qc.ca>

**Subject:** Including provincial PHAs in situational awareness emails

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## Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

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**From:** Tam, Dr Theresa (PHAC/ASPC) <drtheresa.tam@canada.ca>  
**Sent:** January 9, 2020 7:36 AM  
**To:** Williams, Dr. David (MOHLTC)  
**Cc:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; Arruda, Horacio (Ext.)  
**Subject:** Re: Including provincial PHAs in situational awareness emails

A meeting between Heads of Agencies and respective CMOHs is a great idea. I can help facilitate this in the coming months.

I will ask the secretariat to copy the BC and ON agencies on situational awareness emails and once I hear from Horacio I will add the INSPQ.

TT

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 9, 2020, at 07:50, Williams, Dr. David (MOHLTC) <[Dr.David.Williams@ontario.ca](mailto:Dr.David.Williams@ontario.ca)> wrote:

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**Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX**

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**From:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** January 8, 2020 3:23 PM  
**To:** Tam, Dr Theresa (PHAC/ASPC); dr.david.williams@ontario.ca; Arruda, Horacio (Ext.)  
**Subject:** RE: Including provincial PHAs in situational awareness emails

I think that is a good idea. I forward the CCMOH updates to BCCDC but am happy for them to be on the initial notifications.

b

Dr Bonnie Henry  
Provincial Health Officer  
Office of the PHO  
Ministry of Health  
4th floor, 1515 Blanshard St  
Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT Victoria, BC V8W 9P4 Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca

Phone: 250 952-1330

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em

Warning: This email is intended only for the use of the individual or organization to whom it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged or confidential. Any distribution, disclosure, copying, or other use by anyone else is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please telephone or e-mail the sender immediately and delete the message.

-----Original Message-----

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