

Atypical Viral Pneumonia Cluster Identified in China

Vancouver Coastal Health is monitoring reports of a cluster of atypical pneumonia in Wuhan, China. A novel coronavirus (named 2019-nCoV) has been identified as the likely cause of disease, with most cases being linked to a live animal market. Nearly all of the 222 reported cases are either in, or have traveled to, the Wuhan area. At this time, no cases have been identified outside of Asia.

Outbreaks of a novel coronavirus in humans are always of public health concern. As of January 20th, there are reports of human-to-human transmission within China to 16 people, including a number of health care workers.

Clinical presentation is being reported as fever and dry cough with bilateral lung infiltrates on chest radiograph. 15-20% of cases have been critically ill with three deaths reported.

While the Public Health Agency of Canada has assessed the risk to Canadians to be low, please promptly notify a Medical Health Officer of cases that meet the following criteria:

- Travel to Wuhan, China within 14 days of symptom onset **AND**
- Fever and acute respiratory illness with or without pneumonia **AND**
- No clear alternative diagnosis

A Medical Health Officer is available 24/7 for guidance on appropriate testing and precautions. They can be reached during business hours at 604-675-3900 or after-hours at 604-527-4893.

For those patients seeking travel advice on this novel infection in Wuhan, China, please refer to the latest Travel Notice from the Government of Canada: <https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/advisories/pneumonia-china>

VCH Launches SmartMom: An Evidence Based Prenatal Text Service

SmartMom is a free prenatal text messaging program that sends evidence-based messages to guide women through their pregnancy. Messages are tailored to gestational age (from 5-42 weeks) and include links to websites, phone numbers and videos on topics such as fetal growth and development, prenatal genetic screening, and preparation for labour and delivery. SmartMom text messages also suggest topics to discuss with care providers.

SmartMom was developed by Optimal Birth BC in partnership with the BC Ministry of Health, the Northern Health Authority, the First Nations Health Authority, and Perinatal Services BC, and has been endorsed by the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada.

Starting February 1st SmartMom will be available to women in VCH. Please tell your patients about SmartMom and encourage them to enroll by texting **VCH** to **12323**, or online at www.smartmomcanada.ca. Enrolling and receiving the texts is free, but standard data rates apply when accessing links/resources from a phone. For SmartMom posters to put up in your office and additional enrollment information, please contact VCHPrenatalProgram@vch.ca.

You can reach a Medical Health Officer in Vancouver at 604.675.3900 Toll free at 1.855.675.3900
For public health emergencies after hours contact the Medical Health Officer on call at 604.527.4893

Vancouver Medical Health Officers

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Dr. Réka Gustafson, Dr. John Harding, Dr. Althea Hayden, Dr. James Lu, Dr. Michael Schwandt

To receive Physicians' Updates by email please contact us at: vchregistrationcdc@vch.ca