

**Ministry of Health  
and Long-Term Care**

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May 10, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO: Health Sector Colleagues**

**RE: Novel Coronavirus**

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Dear Colleagues,

As of May 9, 2013 the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) has reported several new confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus in Saudi Arabia and France.

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, in collaboration with Public Health Ontario (PHO) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), is closely monitoring this evolving situation.

To date, there have been no cases of novel coronavirus detected in Ontario or Canada and the risk to Ontarians of contracting this virus remains low.

However, due to the evolving situation in France, the Arabian Peninsula and neighbouring countries, the high mortality rate in a small number of known cases and the suggestion of nosocomial transmission, I want to remind our health partners that we need to remain vigilant by:

- performing screening for Acute Respiratory Illness (ARI – previously known as Febrile Respiratory Illness - FRI); and
- adding additional precautions to routine practices when caring for any ARI patients who present with a travel history to affected areas, as outlined in [Information for Health Workers](#).

For information on the ARI screening procedure, please visit:

<http://www.oahpp.ca/resources/documents/pidac/RPAP%20Annex%20B%20Prevention%20Transmission%20Acute%20Respiratory%20Infection.pdf>

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care will continue to work with you, our health partners to monitor this issue and will continue to share any further advice or updates.

To keep informed on any new developments, please visit [Information for Health Workers](#) regularly for updates.

Thank you,

**Original signed by**

Arlene King, MD, MHSc, FRCPC  
Chief Medical Officer of Health

HLTC