



COMMUNITY NOTICE

For Immediate Release:

Enniska/February 21, 2020

COVID-19 (NOVEL CORONAVIRUS) INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING FEB. 21, 2020

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne is continuing to share updates and information as it is received pertaining to the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) outbreak and plans to use the NAV Centre in Cornwall as a quarantine site.

On Feb. 21, MCA Grand Chief Abram Benedict and MCA communications and emergency operations staff were invited to a de-briefing with the various agencies overseeing the quarantine, including Public Health Canada, the Eastern Ontario Health Unit (EOHU), and NAV Canada and NAV Centre.

Plans to quarantine Canadians evacuees from the cruise ship Diamond Princess in Japan, which experienced an outbreak of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus), continue to be underway with the chartered airplane expected early Friday morning in Trenton, Ontario. Following the appropriate screening and processing, the evacuees will be transferred to NAV Centre in Cornwall later today.

GENERAL UPDATES

- ❖ There will be 131 passengers and 7 crew who will be quarantined at NAV Centre. The age range is from 20-80, with the majority being age 60 and up.
- ❖ There will be daily de-briefings with NAV Centre staff to keep them apprised of the situation. Key updates will be shared publicly.
- ❖ Training drills and walk-throughs have been conducted at NAV Can to ensure a smooth transfer and quarantine period. The Red Cross and Canadian Armed Forces are being utilized on site.
- ❖ The Cornwall mayor's office has been sending resident questions directly to Dr. Paul, the local Medical Officer of health, and his team at [Eastern Ontario Health Unit](#) so that they can communicate answers to the public. The EOHU has been providing continuous information to the public, including a recent video update which can be viewed at the following address: <https://youtu.be/qf8tTR1VVqs> or by visiting the EOHU's YouTube channel.
- ❖ Dr. Paul and the EOHU are confident that proper procedures are in place, and that the NAV Centre quarantine is "not a risk to the public." The EOHU stated, "Guests or visitors to the main NAV Centre campus will not be affected by the quarantine, and are not at risk as there will be no access to the quarantine site or individuals."



- ❖ There will be a press conference today at 4:30 p.m. to provide an update on the arrival of the evacuees.

EASTERN ONTARIO HEALTH UNIT UPDATES

According to the EOHU, while at the NAV CENTRE, quarantined Canadians and their families will:

- ❖ Remain in the secure area at all times.
- ❖ Be restricted from access to all other areas of the NAV CENTRE.
- ❖ Undergo regular health checks by onsite medical staff.
- ❖ Have daily access to an outdoor secure area at specific times.
- ❖ Be required to remain 2 metres from others and wear a mask and gloves when they are in the outdoor secure area.
- ❖ Have all their meals and supplies delivered to their rooms by the Canadian Red Cross.

CANADA TRAVEL ADVISORY

The Government of Canada advises Canadians to avoid all non-essential travel to China, and all travel to the Hubei Province of China, where the (origin) city of Wuhan is located.

CBSA UPDATES

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) provided the following updated information to MCA:

- ❖ An additional screening question to help identify those who may have been in the Hubei province is being asked to all international travellers arriving at the following international airports: Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Billy Bishop, Ottawa, Quebec City, and Halifax.
- ❖ Travellers are asked the question on an electronic kiosk (Primary Inspection Kiosks, Automated Border Clearance or NEXUS kiosks) or by a border services officer directly.
- ❖ Travellers who have been in the Hubei province are subject to additional screening to help prevent the possible spread of this infectious disease into Canada. Travellers experiencing flu-like symptoms are referred to a PHAC staff member. All others are provided a handout on the COVID-19 and allowed to continue with their planned travel.



- ❖ Entry screening alone is not a guarantee against the possible spread of this new virus but is an important public health tool during periods of uncertainty and part of a multilayered government response strategy.
- ❖ Signage in CBSA arrival halls to raise traveller awareness has been posted in all airports where enhanced measures are in place.
- ❖ CBSA works closely with other government agencies such as the Public Health Agency of Canada.

CBSA's next steps, should the situation continue to escalate:

- ❖ Rest assured the CBSA and PHAC are prepared should the situation escalate. Other enhanced border measures may be implemented if required and deemed appropriate given the level of risk identified by PHAC.
- ❖ CBSA is working with PHAC and continues to monitor the situation to determine measures required at ports of entry.
- ❖ CBSA will always take the appropriate measures to ensure the health and safety of those in Canada and its employees.

TIPS FOR FLU/VIRUS PREVENTION

The Mohawk Council of Akwesasne and EOHU reminds the community that the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) is transmitted like the flu. There are everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses. Take these everyday steps to reduce your chances of transmitting a virus or being infected:

- ❖ wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- ❖ sneeze and cough into your sleeve
- ❖ avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- ❖ avoid contact with people who are sick
- ❖ stay home if you are sick

COVID-19 (NOVEL CORONAVIRUS) STATISTICAL INFORMATION AS OF FEB. 20, 2020:

- ❖ China: 74,578 cases; 2,119 deaths
- ❖ Asia & Oceania: 1113 cases; 8 deaths (Philippines, Hong Kong (2), Japan, Taiwan, Diamond Princess (2), South Korea)
- ❖ Europe: 47 cases; 1 death (France)
- ❖ Middle East: 9 cases
- ❖ Africa: Egypt 1 case
- ❖ North America: United States (15 cases), Canada (8 cases)



- ❖ In Ontario, there are 14 persons under investigation with lab results pending. To date, there are no COVID-19 positive cases among the repatriated Canadians from Wuhan currently under quarantine at CFB Trenton.

In comparison, the World Health Organization estimates that there are 3 – 5 million cases of severe influenza (flu) annually worldwide, with 290,000 - 650,000 related deaths.

USEFUL LINKS:

1. EASTERN ONTARIO HEALTH UNIT

WEBSITE: www.eohu.ca

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/EOHUhealth>

TWITTER: https://twitter.com/EOHU_tweet

YOUTUBE: www.youtube.com/EasternOntarioHealth (playlist of Dr. Paul's COVID-related videos at www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdXEzysKm-SezDcKUv-coOF_PeCxPVeYy)

2. WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

WEBSITE: www.who.int

3. PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA

WEBSITE: www.canada.ca/publichealth