



January 29, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you may be aware, a new illness called novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) has been spreading in areas of southeast Asia, originating in Wuhan (Hubei province), China.

At this time returning travelers from affected areas are advised to continue regular activities but monitor for signs and symptoms of respiratory illness. If symptoms develop, all persons are advised to self-isolate and contact their healthcare provider.

The 2019-nCoV has been identified at the same time that influenza (“the flu”) and other respiratory illnesses are circulating in our community. The precautions to protect yourself against these respiratory illnesses can also be used to help protect against coronaviruses, including 2019-nCoV.

Kingston Frontenac Lennox & Addington (KFL&A) Public Health and Hastings Prince Edward (HPE) Public Health recommend members of the public take the following usual precautions to reduce the risk of transmission of the flu and respiratory illnesses;

- Clean your hands often with soap and water or use hand sanitizer.
- Cough and sneeze into the bend of your arm, not into your hand.
- Avoid touching your nose, mouth or eyes with your hands.
- Clean objects and surfaces that a lot of people touch, such as doorknobs, phones, and television remotes.
- Get your influenza vaccine.
- Stay home when you are sick and avoid contact with other people until your symptoms are gone. Notify the school of your child’s absence

KFL&A Public Health and HPE Public Health are closely monitoring the situation and actively working with our local, provincial and federal partners to ensure the continued safety and well-being of the public.

This is a constantly evolving situation and there is a dedicated Ministry of Health website (www.Ontario.ca/coronavirus) where parents/guardians can find the most up-to-date information.

Please consult the local public health unit with any questions.

KFL&A

613-549-1232

<https://www.kflaph.ca/en/index.aspx>

HPE

613-966-5500

<https://hpepublichealth.ca/>

