



Renfrew County and District Health Unit  
"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

## Memorandum

**Date:** January 6, 2020  
**To:** Emergency Departments, and Infection Control Practitioners  
**From:** Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health  
**Subject:** **Undiagnosed Viral Pneumonia in China**

---

Dear Colleagues,

Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU), Infectious Diseases Team would like to advise you that health authorities in Wuhan, China are currently investigating a cluster of undiagnosed viral pneumonia.

The following information is what is known:

- On December 31, 2019, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission in the Central Hubei province in China issued a public statement saying that they have cases of respiratory illness (undiagnosed viral pneumonia) associated with a local live seafood market.
- The local live seafood market has now been closed for disinfection and a full investigation, including laboratory testing, of these cases is underway to identify the cause of the illnesses.
- No human-to-human transmission has been identified and no cases among healthcare worker contacts have been reported.
- Authorities in China have engaged the WHO (World Health Organization).

Overall, the risk to Ontarians is considered very low. The Ministry of Health and Public Health Agency of Canada will continue to monitor this situation closely. At this point, no additional precautions have been recommended.