Lessons from the Frontlines: Responses to Recent Coronavirus Cases in Commercial Office Buildings

March 16th, 2020
Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Public Health Guidance
3. Lessons from 25 York Street, Toronto
4. Lessons from 6880 Financial Drive, Meadowvale, Mississauga
5. Questions and Answers
6. Concluding Thoughts
Welcome from BOMA Canada

Benjamin Shinewald
President and CEO, BOMA Canada
Please contact relevant public health authorities for medical/public health advice. Neither BOMA Canada nor the individuals presenting herein are providing such advice.
2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): From an emerging novel infectious disease to planning for a pandemic response

Dr. Vinita Dubey
Toronto Public Health (TPH)
March 2020
Overview

1. What is COVID-19?
2. Current global situation
3. Roles of different levels of public health in Canada
4. Public Health Advice
5. Pandemic Stages
6. Planning for a pandemic- businesses
7. Other resources
What is COVID-19?

• A new (novel) strain of coronavirus initially identified in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China.

• Coronaviruses:
  • Large family of viruses found in both animals and humans.
  • Usually associated with mild illness (similar to the common cold) but can also cause more severe illness (eg. SARS, MERS).
Symptoms

- Symptoms:
  - More frequently noted
    - Fever
    - Dry cough
    - Shortness of breath
  - Less frequently noted
    - Muscle aches
    - Headache
    - Sore throat
    - Diarrhea

Source: SCDHEC, 2019
Increased risk for severe disease
• Age > 50 years
• Chronic medical condition

Source: China NHC, 2020
In general, for coronaviruses, spread occurs through:

- Respiratory droplets generated when you cough or sneeze.
- Touching something with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose or eyes before washing your hands.
- Close, prolonged personal contact such as living in the same household.

No evidence, to date, of airborne spread.

Source: SCDHEC, 2019
Testing/Treatment

• Diagnosed by a healthcare provider:
  • Signs and symptoms and laboratory testing (swab in nose)
  • Travel history or contact with someone having or suspected of having COVID-19 is also important.
• No antiviral or antibiotic or specific treatment
• No vaccine
Case and Contact Management – local public health

- Follow-up of cases and suspected cases of COVID-19
- Contact tracing and management
  - **Close contact** – within 2 metres for 15 minutes or longer
  - Household contacts
  - Assess risk at other settings like school, work, sports teams, conferences, etc
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Current Situation

As of March 15, 2020:

• **Global Situation – 153,517 cases**
  • China: 81,048 cases;
  • Outside of China – 77,469 cases
  • 80% of cases from 4 countries- China, Iran, Italy, South Korea
  • Other countries in Europe increasing rapidly

• North America:
  • United States – 1,678 cases; 41 deaths
  • Canada - 304 cases, 1 death

WHO situation reports can be accessed at:
https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/


Current Situation- Most of the world has cases now – what began in one province in China

Global Map

As of 12:00 p.m. ET March 14, 2020

Current Situation- The USA- 1215 cases  March 13th, 2020

- 3 states with increased activity
- Testing in the USA only increased in March

Source: CDC, 2020  
What we know about COVID-19 cases in Canada

From onset of illness occurred between January 15 and March 13, 2020

• 51% of cases are female
• 31% of cases are 60 years old and over
• 13% of cases have been hospitalized
• 1 person has died of COVID-19
• 74% of cases are travellers
• 6% are close contacts of travellers
• 20% - investigating or no known source

## Change in case counts in 12 days in Canada

### As of March 3
- 30 confirmed cases in Canada.
  - 20 in Ontario
  - 9 in British Columbia
  - 1 in Quebec

**Local (Toronto) Situation**
- 11 confirmed cases in Toronto
- Cases travel related or close contact
- At this time, no community spread

### As of March 15
- 304 confirmed cases in Canada.
  - 142 in Ontario
  - 73 in British Columbia
  - All provinces have cases

**Local (Toronto) Situation**
- 80 confirmed cases in Toronto
- Cases mostly travel related or close contact
- Cases from travel to USA
- Expecting local spread
- Mitigation measures in place

Many have been tested in Ontario - most have been negative (March 15, 2020)

Status of cases in Ontario

This web page will be updated with the most up-to-date information on the status of cases in Ontario, every day, seven days a week, at 10:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. ET.

The symptoms of the 2019 novel coronavirus, which can include fever and cough, are similar to other respiratory infections, including influenza. As a result, individuals who may simply have the flu are being tested out of an abundance of caution and in line with Ontario's robust detection protocols. This means that most individuals who are tested are unlikely to be infected with the 2019 novel coronavirus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Negative¹</td>
<td>7004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Currently under investigation²</td>
<td>1316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed positive³</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resolved⁴</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total number of patients approved for COVID-19 testing to date: 8465

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Current Advice – Prevention

- Prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 15 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
  - Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Source: SCDHEC, 2019
Current Advice – Prevention

• Prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:
  • Stay home when you are sick.
  • Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
  • Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
  • Follow routine infection prevention and control policies and procedures set out by your company or organization.

Source: SCDHEC, 2019
March 15th travel health notices

Official Global Travel Advisory

Avoid non-essential travel outside of Canada until further notice.

To limit the spread of COVID-19, many countries have put in place travel or border restrictions and other measures such as movement restrictions and quarantines. Airlines have cancelled flights. New restrictions may be imposed with little warning. Your travel plans may be severely disrupted and you may be forced to remain outside of Canada longer than expected.

Contact your airline or tour operator to determine options for cancelling or postponing your trip.

- Check travel restrictions and advisories from the Public Health Agency of Canada – **before and after travel**
- Information is always being updated
Returning travellers – travel outside Canada

*Advice may change upon return to Canada*

- Self-isolate for 14 days
- If sick, stay home and call health care provider, public health, Telehealth
- Social distancing
- Avoid large gatherings
- Stay away from hospitals, elderly, those with chronic health conditions
Public health interventions

Mitigation

- Sustained local transmission across population
- Attempt to slow down spread to reduce impact on health care system, and await the arrival of a vaccine/anti-viral medications
- Use of broader population level mitigation strategies to reduce impact such as social distancing, large gatherings, consideration for school and workplace strategies such as closures
- Eventually will no longer tracing individual cases

FLATTENING THE CURVE

number of cases

without protective measures

health care system capacity

with protective measures

time since first case
Toronto Public Health’s Hotline
For the public and stakeholders
416-338-7600

www.toronto.ca/coronavirus
Dr. Vinita Dubey
City of Toronto, Public Health

Jon Douglas
Menkes Property Management

Marlene Farias
Triovest Realty Advisors Inc.
Question & Answer
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BOMA Canada, Benjamin Shinewald

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Thank you!
Merci!