

Members of the campus community,

Yesterday the province's Chief Medical Officer, Saqib Sahab, advised that there have been no confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus in Saskatchewan and although they are currently testing four people for it, he suspects they likely have the flu. He also advised people to ignore rumours circulating on social media and said that if there is a confirmed case in Saskatchewan, it will be formally announced by public health officials.

The Public Health Agency of Canada continues to advise that the overall risk to Canadian travellers and to Canada remains low.

We have received a few enquiries regarding what administrators, faculty members, and supervisors should be advising students or staff who may come forward feeling unwell, or who might otherwise express concern about potential exposure to the novel coronavirus.

In order to ensure everyone has the same information, we are providing the following guidelines:

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have indicated the incubation period for the novel coronavirus may be as long as two weeks before symptoms appear. It is highly unlikely that anyone who entered Canada more than two weeks ago – and who has not developed symptoms of respiratory illness – would be carrying the virus.

However, anyone who has recently (within two or three weeks) arrived from China, or has had close personal contact with someone who has recently come from China, should monitor their health for 14 days. Anyone who starts displaying symptoms of respiratory illness, including fever, cough and difficulty breathing, within that time frame, is advised to isolate themselves and contact Public Health at 306-766-7790 or Health Line at 811 as soon as possible.

In addition, before going to a doctor's office, health clinic, or emergency room, they should call ahead to describe their symptoms, travel history and any contact they may have had with a sick person. If you need emergency medical care, call 911.

It is important to remind people that this is peak season for colds and flu, which have very similar symptoms to the coronavirus. Saskatchewan Health recommends that anyone who is sick should stay home to rest and recover and follow the advice of their medical practitioner in order to prevent the spread of their illness.

A Saskatchewan Health Authority advisory for travellers going to, or returning from, regions affected by coronavirus has been posted on the Health, Safety and Wellness website at:

<https://www.uregina.ca/hr/hsw/Coronavirus/index.html>

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