

## Advice for Federal Employees at Points of Entry in Canada

### COVID-19

#### Public Service Occupational Health Program (PSOHP), Health Canada

Updated: 9 March 2020

**Please note that this advice may change as more information becomes available.**

The recommendations listed below are based on the current information available on the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). More information is available at [Canada.ca/coronavirus](https://www.canada.ca/coronavirus).

In addition to the general information and recommendations in PSOHP's occupational health advisory, the following precautions/recommendations apply for federal employees working at all points of entry (i.e. airports, marine ports and Canadian land border crossings).

An increasing number of countries have now imposed travel restrictions, including quarantine or self-isolation of travellers not only from China, but also from other countries experiencing outbreaks. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is closely monitoring the spread of COVID-19 in other countries. Please consult the destination page for the latest travel advice and advisories on [travel.gc.ca](https://travel.gc.ca) and the [active travel health notices for COVID-19](#) and the [COVID-19 affected areas list](#).

### Recommendations

PSOHP offers the following recommendations for federal employees who may work with travelers and ship crew personnel:

- Be up-to-date with all recommended adult vaccinations as per the [Canadian Immunization Guide](#). For communicable disease advice or immunization status queries, call your local public health authorities or the [Public Service Occupational Health Program office in your region](#).
- Meet the recommended immunizations as outlined for your occupational group as per Health Canada's Occupational Health Assessment Guide (OHAG).
- Where possible, keep a distance greater than two metres from an individual

who appears ill (e.g. coughing, sneezing).

- Have the ill person wear a surgical-type mask and use alcohol-based hand sanitizer at the earliest opportunity.
- Isolate the ill person from others, when feasible, in a separate area or room.
- Ensure a supply of tissues, alcohol-based hand sanitizer, surgical-type masks and a wastebasket are available in the room.
- Practice your usual cleaning routine while taking into consideration any specific measures that you may have in place for seasonal influenza (while it is circulating in the community at this time), which could also include an increase in your frequency of cleaning.

### **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Recommendations**

Federal employees should follow standard precautions as per their departmental occupational health and safety program.

PSOHP recommends the use of the following PPE:

- work gloves when handling cargo containers,
- medical type gloves when handling documents and baggage of potentially ill persons; and
- medical type gloves, eye/face protection and a surgical-type mask when escorting and/or remaining with an ill person.

All staff should be trained on the correct technique and sequence for putting on (donning) and taking off (doffing) their PPE. Advice from your departmental occupational health and safety personnel is recommended in regards to the choice and use of PPE.

Please consult your department's standard operating procedures for further guidance on the management of individuals who have been identified as requiring follow-up by a quarantine officer.

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have also been prepared and can be found at: GCintranet. <https://intranet.canada.ca/psc-fsc/messages/cmt-538-eng.asp> (accessible only from a Government of Canada device)

## Other Sources of Information

- Government of Canada, *Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Outbreak update.* [Canada.ca/coronavirus](http://Canada.ca/coronavirus)
- Government of Canada. *COVID-19: Travel Advice.* <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice>
- Government of Canada. *COVID-19 List of Affected Areas.* <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/covid-19-affected-areas-list.html>
- World Health Organization. *Novel Coronavirus.* <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/emergencies/novel-coronavirus>
- World Health Organization. *Q&A on coronaviruses.* <https://www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-coronaviruses>

