

# Keeping you informed

Benefit plan news for People Corporation plan sponsors

## Coronavirus disease COVID-19 outbreak

The name COVID-19 is an abbreviated version of Coronavirus disease 2019. It was first identified in Wuhan, Hubei province, China in December last year. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can cause illnesses like colds and other respiratory tract infections but some, like SARS and the most recently identified COVID-19, can be extremely dangerous.

### How the COVID-19 virus is spread

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the COVID-19 virus is spread mostly through person-to-person contact mainly through respiratory droplets when those who are infected sneeze, cough, or exhale. From within a one meter range of an infected person, others can breathe in these droplets. If the droplets land on objects and surfaces, people can catch the COVID-19 virus by touching these objects or surfaces, and then touching their eyes, nose, or mouth.

According to the WHO, the virus can be transmitted as soon as those who are infected show flu-like symptoms. There are still uncertainties as to whether mild or asymptomatic cases can transmit the virus. Consistent with most respiratory viruses, people are thought to be most contagious when they are most symptomatic (the sickest).

### Current state in Canada

The Public Health Agency of Canada has assessed the public health risk associated with COVID-19 as low for Canada. As of March 9, Canada has had a total of 77 confirmed cases.

By location:

- 34 in Ontario
- 32 in British Columbia
- 4 in Quebec
- 7 in Alberta

For current stats on confirmed cases in Canada, visit the [Government of Canada](#) site.

### Travelling outside of Canada

To date, the Government of Canada hasn't implemented a travel ban as a result of the COVID-19 virus but does recommend that all travellers [register](#) with the government so they can be provided with updates if issues arise. The following advisories have been issued:

Destination	Travel warning	Instructions
China	Level 3	Avoid all non-essential travel
Hubei province, China		Avoid all travel
Hong Kong	Level 1	Practise usual precautions
Iran	Level 3	Avoid all non-essential travel
Japan	Level 2	Practise special precautions
Northern Italy	Level 3	Avoid all non-essential travel
Singapore	Level 1	Practise usual precautions
South Korea	Level 2	Practise special precautions

Travellers should review safety tips posted on the Government of Canada's [Travel and Tourism](#) site.

**Travel coverage**

Plan members who are travelling should review their plan member booklet for information on their emergency travel coverage, and trip cancellation/interruption coverage. In some cases, travelling to a destination that has a travel advisory can impact the travel insurance coverage. Trips booked to a destination after an advisory has been announced may not be eligible for medical emergency coverage or trip cancellation/trip interruption coverage. We strongly recommend that plan members contact the emergency medical travel provider with questions or concerns.

**Monitoring the situation**

We'll continue to monitor this situation and make you aware of new information as it becomes available.

**For more information**

If you have questions, please contact your People Corporation benefits consultant.



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