

# General COVID-19 Information

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The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) a pandemic. A pandemic is declared when a new disease for which people do not have immunity spread around the world beyond expectations.

Woodstock Hospital continues to work with our health care partners to monitor the COVID-19 situation. We encourage you to visit these credible websites to keep up-to-date on this situation:

- [Ministry of Health](#)
- [Public Health Ontario](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)
- <http://www.coronavirusontario.ca/>

#### What are Coronaviruses?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that can cause illnesses ranging from the common cold to more serious respiratory infections like bronchitis, pneumonia or severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

#### What is COVID-19?

In January 2020, a novel (new) coronavirus (COVID-19) was identified as the cause of an outbreak of pneumonia in Wuhan, China.

#### What is the best way to prevent transmission of this virus?

- Stay home. Only leave for essential outings such as to get groceries, medication, or to attend health care appointments.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for **at least 20 seconds**. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve or cover your mouth and nose with a tissue and throw the tissue out immediately. Wash your hands afterward.
- Frequently clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces.
- If you have fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early and share your recent travel history with your health care provider.

[Click here](#) to take the Government of Ontario's self-assessment online.

If you're looking for information about the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Oxford County, [please click here to be directed to Southwestern Public Health's Dashboard](#).

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