

Health risks

The Ontario Ministry of Health advises that residents should to avoid all non-essential travel outside of Canada.

All travellers should be aware that there are health risks when you travel. It is important to check your destination before you leave to know the risks and to be prepared.

While you are away, and when you return, it is important to monitor your health. If you become sick while travelling, call ahead to a health professional to explain your symptoms. If you become sick upon your return, call your Hamilton Public Health Services for further instructions.

If you have travelled outside Canada, you can reduce the risk of spreading infection by following prevention measures when returning to Canada.

People can contract coronaviruses after coming into contact with an infected person. Current evidence suggests person-to-person spread is efficient when there is close contact.

Avoid all travel on cruise ships

The Government of Canada is advising that Canadians avoid all travel on cruise ships due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, until further notice.

Cruise passengers include travellers from around the world who may be arriving from areas with known or unknown spread of COVID-19. The virus can spread quickly on board cruises due to the close contact between passengers. Older people and people with a weakened immune system or underlying medical condition are at a higher risk of developing severe disease.

The decision on Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 Coronavirus Disease in Canada Order (Persons Not on Government Flight) is effective from February 19 to April 30, 2020.

Canadians who choose to voyage on a cruise ship should also be aware that they may not be offered the opportunity to return to Canada on a government-organized repatriation flight, or could be responsible for the costs of repatriation travel.

Government of Canada COVID-19 information line: 1-833-784-4397.

Registration of Canadians Abroad

Sign up with the Registration of Canadians Abroad service to stay connected with the Government of Canada in case of an emergency abroad or an emergency at home.

For returning travellers

The risk to Canadian travellers abroad varies depending on the destination. Please consult the destination page on travel.gc.ca for the latest travel advice.

If you have travelled outside Canada, it is important to monitor your health when you return to Canada. While abroad, you may have come in contact with the novel coronavirus. Hamilton Public Health Services asks that you monitor your health for fever, cough and difficulty breathing for 14 days after you arrive in Canada. If you have these symptoms, call the Hamilton Public Health Services' COVID-19 Hotline (905) 546-2424 ext.7970. They will provide advice on what you should do.

If you have travelled to Hubei province, China, Iran or Italy in the last 14 days, avoid contact with others for a total of 14 days, starting the day you began your journey to Canada. This means self-isolate and stay at home. In addition, contact Hamilton Public Health Services within 24 hours of arriving home.

If you travel outside of Canada with children, they are required to self-isolate for 14 days upon return.

All other travellers are advised to monitor themselves for symptoms and to contact Hamilton Public Health Services if they feel unwell.

Call ahead if you suspect you have been exposed to COVID-19 abroad. Inform Hamilton Public Health Services about symptoms and travel history.

During your return to Canada

If you develop symptoms of coronavirus before you are scheduled to leave, do not get on board any form of public transportation. Seek medical attention.

If you experience symptoms of COVID-19 during a flight, tell the flight attendant before you land or the border services officer as you enter the country. They will notify a quarantine officer who will assess your symptoms.

If you do not have symptoms but believe you were exposed to a source of COVID-19, report this information to a Canada border services agent on arrival in Canada. This is required under the Quarantine Act. The Canada border services agent will provide instructions for you to follow.

There is messaging on arrivals screens at international airports that will help guide travellers to inform a border services officer if they are experiencing flu-like symptoms.

During the 14 days after your return

If you develop symptoms of COVID-19, isolate yourself at home as quickly as possible and call Hamilton Public Health Services (905) 546-2424 ext.7970 immediately.

Describe your symptoms and document your travel history. Hamilton Public Health Services will provide instructions for you to follow, including appropriate arrangements for your medical assessment.

If you travel outside of Canada with children, they are required to self-isolate for 14 days upon return.

Help reduce the spread COVID-19.