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## COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

To Canterbury General Practitioners and Practice Nurses

29 January 2020

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**Canterbury**

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

### Update from Ministry of Health 2019 Novel Coronavirus added to Notifiable Diseases

Dear health practitioners and primary health care providers

Effective from Thursday 30 January 2020 (tomorrow), 'novel coronavirus capable of causing severe respiratory illness' will be added to Section B of Part 1 of Schedule 1 of the Health Act 1956. This will make 2019-nCoV an infectious disease notifiable to the Medical Officer of Health.

[Please refer to the Ministry of Health website for the latest information on 2019-nCoV](#) and in particular the Interim Advice for Health Professionals which includes the case definitions.

We appreciate that this is short notice, but Cabinet decisions required to make this change were only taken on Tuesday this week.

If you have any queries about the operational arrangements for notification, please contact your local DHB-based public health unit.

If you have any policy queries about nCoV notification, please contact [ncovresponse@health.govt.nz](mailto:ncovresponse@health.govt.nz)

NHCC Operations  
Ministry of Health

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov#healthprofessionals>

Yours sincerely

Dr Ramon Pink  
**Medical Officer of Health**