

Critical COVID-19 News

Information for employees, medical staff, paramedics and contractors

April 1 at 5 p.m.

Sent on behalf of Dr. Maureen O'Donnell & Susan Wannamaker

Chief medical officer and chief operating officer of PHSA's COVID-19 EOC

Today shifts us into the month of April. It's amazing to think about the immense amount of work that was done throughout the month of March – by PHSA, by our health sector partners and by government – in response to COVID-19 in British Columbia. While there are still many challenges we are working to overcome, the collaboration, innovation and agility that we are witnessing across so many areas of the health care system, and throughout other sectors and our communities, has been remarkable.

Thank you for your continued commitment to service and dedication to patient care.

Our daily bulletins contain the latest workforce information. **Please read them carefully.**

Highlights:

Breaking news from the provincial government:

- 1. Provincial state of emergency extended**
- 2. BC Hydro relief**

Other important updates:

- 1. Update: Supply Hub platform and where to refer offers of medical supplies/PPE**
- 2. Thursday's virtual town hall for PHSA employees**
- 3. New: Clinical resources on BCCDC's website**

Provincial state of emergency extended

- Yesterday evening, the B.C. government announced it has formally extended the provincial state of emergency to support the provincewide response to the COVID-19 pandemic, through the end of the day on April 14, 2020. The provincial government can extend the period of a declaration for further periods of time for up to 14 days at a time.
- Premier John Horgan was quoted: "The next 14 days are critically important in our province's unprecedented fight against COVID-19. What we do today will affect what our doctors, nurses and first responders face in the days and weeks ahead. We're asking all British Columbians to re-commit to doing their part. There are early signs that our actions are making a difference, and we can't stop now."

BC Hydro relief

- The Government of British Columbia and BC Hydro are offer new, targeted bill relief to provide immediate help to those most in need.
- Residential customers who have lost their jobs or are unable to work as a result of COVID-19 will receive a credit to help cover the cost of their electricity bills. The credit will be three times their average monthly bill over the past year at their home and does not have to be repaid.

Update: Supply Hub platform and where to refer offers of medical supplies/PPE

- The Province has launched the COVID-19 Supply Hub, a made-in-B.C. online platform to co-ordinate, source and expedite medical supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE) for provincial health authorities to support front-line health workers.
- Please direct inquiries that come your way related to offers of medical supplies and PPE to this new platform: www.gov.bc.ca/supplyhub
- This platform provides a single point of entry to prioritize the thousands of offers and donations for essential supplies from business and other organizations since the onset of the COVID-19 response. It will focus on sourcing supplies for the health care system and frontline workers, though government is also accepting offers for other essentials, like cleaning supplies.
- The COVID-19 Supply Hub will be managed under the new Provincial Supply Coordination Unit at Emergency Management BC, in partnership with PHSA, as part of the Province's approach to COVID-19 response and recovery. PHSA is getting inundated with daily with hundreds of generous offers from suppliers and donors, and as such, we welcome this assistance in verifying vendors and products.

Thursday's virtual town hall for PHSA employees

- We are holding ongoing, virtual town halls to provide updates and address your questions about COVID-19.
- The next town hall will be on **Thursday, April 2, 2020 from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**
- We need to prioritize access to our clinical applications, and as such, you may experience challenges with connectivity.
- We're offering three options for viewing:
 - 1) Watch the webcast live at 10:30am using this link:** <https://mediasite.phsa.ca/Mediasite/Play/2c20a60ecf1e412fbcda4a102ff32d621d>
There is no password needed to watch. If you are prompted to log in, it means the webcast connections are at capacity. Use options 2 or 3.
 - 2) Listen by teleconference live at 10:30am by calling: 1-833-353-8610 and using Participant code 4478028 #.**
If you hear a busy signal, try calling again. If a message says the conference bridge is full, use option 3.
 - 3) Watch the webcast at 12:30 p.m. onwards:** Use the same link above to watch the webcast recording on demand. There is no difference between the live or recorded experience and you do not need to be on the PHSA network.
- To watch previous town hall recordings, visit the staff resources section of PHSA's website: phsa.ca/covid19staff

- Questions can be submitted in advance via Slido.com using the event code **#PHSATownHall**. 'Like' questions that are similar to yours to help us prioritize topics. Not all questions will be answered directly but they help inform all future communication.

New: Clinical resources on BCCDC's website

- The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), in partnership with clinical leaders, have developed two COVID-19 resources for our clinical staff:
 - Adult CPR – protocol for suspect and confirmed cases of COVID-19
 - Intubation – checklist to follow for suspect and confirmed cases of COVID-19
- The BCCDC website houses these documents and any subsequent updates – please visit often for new materials. Other recently-added clinical care documents include:
 - A revised doffing of PPE poster
 - Guidance for antenatal visits
 - Unproven therapies
 - Pediatric clinical guidance
 - Guidance for community and hospital pharmacies

Thank you for your continued dedication

The service that each and every one of you offers for patients and families – and the essential support you provide to provincial systems – is critical, and is making a meaningful difference in B.C.

Your ongoing sources of information

- We are sending daily updates. Watch for emails from phsacomm@phsa.ca.
- Continue to send in your questions via [Slido.com](https://www.slido.com) using the event code **#PHSATownHall**. 'Like' questions that are similar to yours to let us know the priority topics to cover at our virtual town halls and in future communications.
- Continue to check the [BCCDC's website](#) as a trusted source of information.
- Visit the [staff COVID-19 section on phsa.ca](#) to access [PHSA News](#) and COVID-19 information when off the network.
- BCEHS alerts and updates are on the [BCAS intranet](#) and in the [BCEHS Handbook](#). *[Note: you must be on the BCEHS network to access these links].*
- For site-specific questions, please check in with your manager or clinical leadership.
- For trusted information from around the world, please check the [World Health Organization website](#).