

Critical COVID-19 News

Information for employees, medical staff, paramedics and contractors

April 11 at 4:15 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

For many members of our workforce, this long weekend is one of reflection and significance. We hope you are able to find time to connect with yourself and your loved ones – with those in your household, or perhaps through virtual means with those who you are unable to see in person.

While many of us are spending time with our families and enjoying some well-deserved rest, we want to acknowledge that there are many team members still hard at work to provide patient care and keep our critical, provincial systems and networks running. We are all grateful for their service.

If you have been following PHSA's social media channels this weekend, you may have seen a special thank you from our president and CEO, Benoit Morin, to all those who are working throughout the long weekend.

Message from the CEO: Click on the image below or watch the video on PHSA's social media channels:

- [Instagram](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Facebook](#)

Messages from the public: Last weekend, we shared some messages of thanks that we have received from British Columbians. Messages continue to pour in as people extend their sincere, heartfelt gratitude to health care workers. We hope you enjoy [this weekend's compilation](#) of the latest:

On behalf of the entire executive leadership team, thank you for your continued dedication and for all that you are doing to keep British Columbians healthy and safe.

Bulletin highlights:

News from the provincial government:

- 1. PHO Dr. Bonnie Henry's weekend updates**
- 2. B.C. announces Showcase BC livestream concerns**

Other important updates:

3. Research symposium highlights COVID-19 collaborations

4. Reminder: Weekend bulletin distribution schedule

PHO Dr. Bonnie Henry's weekend updates

Friday, April 10:

- Provincial Health Officer (PHO) Dr. Bonnie Henry [issued a statement](#) and emphasized:
 - The long weekend is not the time to travel, unless absolutely necessary.
 - Stay at home and be creative with how you connect and celebrate with family and friends. Find the virtue in virtual and telephone connections.
 - While all BC Parks are closed, people can still enjoy some fresh air by going for walks or bike rides with their family in their neighbourhood and remembering to keep a safe distance.
- Dr. Henry also [issued an opinion editorial](#) about the use of non-medical masks. Dr. Henry reminds people that, when in the community, wearing a cloth mask or face covering is a matter of personal choice. It is another tool you can choose, particularly when maintaining that important safe distance can be a challenge.

Saturday, April 11:

- Dr. Henry [issued a statement](#) and emphasized:
 - She is encouraged that people are staying home and avoiding putting unnecessary strain on our smaller, rural and remote communities.
 - We are paying special attention to international travellers returning to British Columbia. They are required to complete a self-isolation plan and self-isolate for 14 days upon arrival. This process is now in place at B.C.'s land and air borders.

The next PHO briefing will be on Monday, April 13.

B.C. announces Showcase BC livestream concerts

- The B.C. government is partnering with Creative BC to launch Showcase BC – a new, online hub that brings a variety of live performances, entertainment and content to British Columbians, so they can stay connected while staying home.
- British Columbians can access all the grant performances for free through the Showcase BC website and get information on new livestream events by following the hashtag #ShowcaseBC on Twitter.
- The Province will host a free livestream concert next week featuring musicians from around British Columbia. People will be able to join in and watch the concert online. The concert lineup will be announced soon.

Research symposium highlights COVID-19 collaborations

- On Thursday, April 9, the BCCDC and the University of British Columbia (UBC) co-hosted a virtual COVID-19 research symposium to hear of recently-funded projects and enable collaborations among partners.
- Participants included BCCDC and UBC researchers, as well as the Health Research Council of B.C., which includes senior research leads from all the research-intensive universities, all B.C. health authorities, plus major funders such as the Ministry of Health, Genome BC and the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. Several representatives from PHSA and our research programs participated.

- Opening remarks were provided by PHO Dr. Bonnie Henry, as well as BCCDC's Dr. David Patrick (chair, B.C. COVID-19 Strategic Research Advisory Committee) and UBC's Dr. Robert McMaster.
- Session topics included: Diagnostics, Genomics and Transmission Dynamics; Clinical Trials and Patient Management; Epidemiology and Public Health Response; Social Dynamics, Communications and Trust; and, Development of Therapeutics and Vaccines.
- While participation was limited to a set number of available Zoom seats, we are pleased to [share the session recording](#) for those interested in learning more.

Reminder: Weekend bulletin distribution schedule

- As a reminder, barring any unexpected, major issues, the next Critical COVID-19 News bulletin will be distributed on Tuesday, April 14.

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.
- Send in your questions via [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.
- 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.
- For BCEHS alerts and updates, check 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](#).