

Critical COVID-19 News

Information for employees, medical staff, paramedics and contractors

April 4 at 5 p.m.

Today's message is sent on behalf of Benoit Morin, President & CEO, PHSA & PHSA's COVID-19 EOC

Without a doubt, COVID-19, much like 9-11 has changed our world forever. It is hard to imagine what "normal life" will look like on the other side of this pandemic.

We are starting to see small, positive signs coming out of Provincial Health Officer (PHO) Dr. Bonnie Henry's daily news conferences, but there remains much to be done in this fight – you know this even more than the average citizen. Nonetheless, it is important to pause and to appreciate how much we have achieved, because the impact you are having now will be lasting.

There is a saying made famous by Maya Angelou: "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." The people of PHSA are making members of the public feel safer every day. Appreciation for your work is evident across social media, in the nightly 7 p.m. applause for essential health care workers and first responders, and in the compliments pouring in to PHSA's ["Messages of Thanks"](#) and Patient Care & Quality Office. Your important work is being seen – and felt – more than ever before.

To all of you, on behalf of our entire executive leadership team, I say you have my deepest gratitude. You are making a difference and that difference is felt by many. In today's bulletin please enjoy the words of appreciation from not just me, but patients, families and members of the public from all across British Columbia. We thank you.

Bulletin Highlights:

Note: Unless there is critical news to communicate, PHSA is not planning to send a COVID-19 News bulletin tomorrow (Sunday, April 5). Please stay tuned for our next bulletin on Monday, April 6.

News from the government:

- 1. PHO announces new research advisory committee**

Updates and messages of gratitude:

- 1. A thank you from the Minister of Health**
- 2. Messages of gratitude**
- 3. Creativity meets public health messages**

4. Recognizing teamwork in action

PHO announces new research advisory committee

- During today's press conference, B.C.'s PHO Dr. Bonnie Henry [announced that B.C. is establishing a new Strategic Research Advisory Committee](#) to study COVID-19.
- The committee, led by BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC)'s Dr. David Patrick and supported by former provincial health officer Dr. Perry Kendall and other notable public health experts, is facilitating research efforts across the province. This work will also be supported by many of our talented PHSA team members.
- The committee's work includes advising the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, which has received \$2 million to fund research in several important public health areas.

A thank you from the Minister of Health

- B.C. Health Minister Adrian Dix shared the following words recently at a press conference: *"Dr. Bonnie Henry and I want to express our gratitude to people, especially who are working in public health care at every level, from doctors to nurses to health sciences professionals to people who take care and keep our hospitals safe and clean. Everybody in our public health care system is engaged in this effort and other efforts together. This is profoundly a strength of our society."*

Messages of gratitude

- 'Thank you' messages continue to be sent in to PHSA in from all around the province.
- [Watch this short compilation](#) of some of the message we have received over the past week or so:

Creativity meets public health messages

- Heartwarming messages of thanks in the form of art, music, photography continue to abound:
 - [Young Zoe's COVID artwork](#) sends a colourful message of thanks.
 - Creative folks on Vancouver Island [don dinosaur costumes](#) to thank health care workers.
 - [The Ballad of Dr. Bonnie Henry](#) was written by Order of Canada jazz musician, and B.C. resident, Phil Dwyer.
 - Sidewalk chalk art continue to proliferate, including [outside ambulance stations](#) all around the province.
 - [Pink ribbons tied in trees](#) serve as a community reminder that we may not see each other as often right now, but we are there for each other.
 - The [Vancouver Park Board now sounds their 12-cannon boom](#) at 7 p.m. each night to mark the start of the [salute for health care workers](#) and essential service workers.

Recognizing teamwork in action

- The incredible, agile and collaborative work being performed across PHSA and the province is noticed by members of the public, but also by our entire executive leadership team.

- Everyone is making a contribution and together, we are making a difference in the following, tangible ways:
 - Health Emergency Management BC staff providing emergency management support to all health authorities and the Ministry of Health;
 - Data Analytics team working in partnership with BCCDC, informed by analytic expertise from our provincial programs to conduct critical care and hospitalization modelling as well as supporting colleagues in Laboratory Services and Supply Chain;
 - Staff across PHSA volunteering for redeployment;
 - IMITS team members moving mountains to dramatically increase capacity for working at home;
 - Infection Prevention and Control, Public Health, Medical Leaders and Workplace Health & Safety working together to thoughtfully interpret PPE guidelines;
 - Office of Virtual Health working in new ways with BC Renal, BC Transplant, Cardiac Services BC, Trauma Services BC, BC Cancer and others to leapfrog the use of virtual health tools to avoid unexpected consequences for populations of people with significant chronic disease;
 - Provincial Lab Medicine Services leading the Provincial Lab EOC for all labs across B.C. engaged in COVID-19 testing, and our Public Health Lab and Children's & Women's (C&W) labs serving as part of the COVID-19 testing network. The EOC has shown remarkable, cross-health authority collaboration when resolving issues, and continues to support labs across the regions with what they need to deliver COVID-19 results within 24 hours and to ensure all labs are able to continue providing responsive testing for inpatient needs;
 - BCCDC, serving both the province and PHSA in a number of ways, including through groups supporting the Negative Results Line, Public Health Labs, Public Health Measures, Clinical Guidelines, Surveillance and Epidemiology;
 - Supply Chain and Warehouse teams displaying true ingenuity in how we access, store and distribute essential supplies equitably across the province;
 - Medical Imaging and Pharmacy teams, nimbly responding to the temporary deferral of elective surgeries and preparing to assist with new 'field hospitals' and potential surge redeployment;
 - Human Resources, Transformation Leadership Office and Communications teams supporting leaders, tracking urgent action items, and distilling and presenting complex, ever-changing information as quickly and accessibly as possible;
 - Leaders working with multiple health authorities to improve overall coordination of services, including those focused on transportation and surge planning related pediatric and maternity care;
 - And of course, our direct care providers, support service workers and volunteers, including teams at BC Emergency Health Services, BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre, BC Children's Hospital, Sunny Hill Health Centre, BC Cancer, BC Mental Health & Substance Use Services, BC Centre for Disease Control, and many more, doing what they do every day, but with a renewed appreciation of what it means to be "in it together."
 - There are so many more members of our workforce, all around the province, committing their time, energy and expertise to this crisis. We will continue to highlight the great work that our valued team members are doing to contribute

to PHSA's COVID-19 response, and also to maintain other important programs and services.

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](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.
- 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](#).