



## Important COVID-19 message

Information for all PHSA employees, medical staff, paramedics and contractors

### **ACTION REQUIRED: Single-site staffing registration**

**March 28 at 4:15 p.m.**

*Sent on behalf of PHSA's executive leadership team*

This announcement is supplementary to the [Important COVID-19 Bulletin](#) issued at 10:50 a.m. today.

On March 26, 2020, Provincial Health Officer (PHO), Dr. Bonnie Henry, publicly issued two orders:

- (1) [Information Collection to Allocate Staff WORKING IN FACILITIES](#) (the “**Data Collection Order**”); and
- (2) [Long Term Care Facility Staff Movement Limitation](#) (“the **Bridging Order**”).

The **Data Collection Order** applies broadly to long term care facilities, provincial mental health facilities, hospitals, and extended care centres and rehabilitation centres. In this order, the PHO stated that she believes that in order to mitigate the risk of the transmission of COVID-19 among persons in care, patients, residents and staff, it is necessary to obtain personal and employment related information about staff to support decisions that may be required about the allocation of staff among facilities.

The **Bridging Order** enables medical health officers (MHO) to restrict staff from working at more than one long term care facility, and from working at a long term care and an acute care facility. Individual MHOs will determine at which long term care facility sites and at which time they will issue an order for single-site staffing.

With the above orders in mind, health authorities must now take action in support of the Data Collection Order. **Unfortunately, the deadline for this work is tight.** We communicated earlier today that health authority CEOs were seeking an extension, but at this time, **the deadline remains 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 29.** Therefore, we ask all PHSA employees who are not excluded (see list of exclusions below) to take immediate action.

**If you currently only work at one worksite, you do not need to do anything different at this time.** You will continue to work at your normal worksite and you do not need to register.

**ACTION: Any employee who works at more than one health care worksite/station covered by the Data Collection Order may register their worksite/station preference now.**

- The purpose of collecting employee preference is to allow, where practicable, the PHO to consider this factor in decision-making regarding assigning employees to worksites. Submitting preferences does not mean that employee preference will be honoured in every case. Operational and epidemiological factors will take precedence.
- Employees working at more than one worksite covered by the Data Collection Order are to register their worksite preference no later than **5 p.m. on Sunday, March 29, 2020** should they wish to have their preference taken into account in the PHO's decision-making.
- The Data Collection Order **does not include** health care workers who provide *visiting services* at a facility, including: physicians, resident physicians, nurse practitioners, paramedics, medical laboratory technicians and assistants, delivery persons or tradespeople.
- It is important to note that employees who hold more than one health care role and/or work in multiple worksites/stations that cross more than one health authority (e.g. a paramedic working with BCEHS who may also work with a long term care facility in a regional health authority) must complete the employee preference survey.

**To register your preference, please go to the [BC Health Staffing website](#). You will find a yellow help button linked to FAQs at this site.** If you work in more than one site/station, it is important that you register your preference before 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 29, 2020.

If you work in multiple sites and at least one of those sites falls within a MHO single-site order, then you will be notified when decisions have been made by the PHO regarding your worksite. They hope to give you a decision by end of day on April 2, 2020. Please continue to work your scheduled shifts at your scheduled worksites until you are notified otherwise.

We regret the urgency of this request and we acknowledge the impact it has on all of our people, at all levels of the organization. You are doing outstanding work under extraordinary circumstances and we are grateful for your support in assisting with this PHO request, which is intended to help ensure the safety of most vulnerable patients we serve province-wide.

**Thank you for your attention to this important update.**