



Critical COVID-19 News

Information for employees, medical staff, paramedics and contractors

April 21 at 6:15 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

In [today's statement](#), B.C.'s Provincial Health Officer (PHO) Dr. Bonnie Henry said: "Even though you may be feeling the strain, we need everyone to keep going. We are at an important crossroads with our COVID-19 response. Every day counts, and every action you take makes a difference."

We continue to be heartened by the [modelling and projections](#) for our province and we remain hopeful that B.C.'s curve is flattening. The progress we are seeing is truly a reflection of the collective commitment and dedication of all British Columbians.

However, COVID-19 isn't something that is just going to "be over" any time soon. We remain encouraged, but we must keep taking proactive steps to ensure members of our society – and of course, members of our workforce – can stay safe.

Thank you for continuing to be a critical part of our planning and response to COVID-19.

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

Highlights:

News from the provincial government:

- 1. Emergency supports for home share, support service providers**
- 2. Federal government support for charities and non-profits**

Other important updates:

- 3. Today's town hall time stamps**
- 4. Reminder: COVID-19 communications survey**

Emergency supports for home share, support service providers

- Today, the [B.C. government announced](#) that provincial emergency COVID-19 funding will be distributed through Community Living BC (CLBC) to ensure people with developmental disabilities stay supported and safe during the pandemic.
- As part of the B.C. Government's \$5-billion COVID-19 Action Plan, up to \$35.6 million will be available over three months from CLBC to support service providers to continue

delivering residential services, including group homes, home sharing and supported independent living that about 9,500 adults with developmental disabilities count on.

- Under this temporary emergency support, CLBC service providers who provide residential services, such as group homes, can request funding to address overtime costs or staffing shortages and to access additional supplies for delivering disability-related supports to keep individuals safe.

Federal government support for charities and non-profits

- Today, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau [announced an investment of \\$350 million](#) to support vulnerable Canadians through charities and non-profit organizations that deliver essential services to those in need.
- To help vulnerable Canadians, the Government of Canada will provide additional support to charities and non-profit organizations through the Emergency Community Support Fund.
- The investment will flow through national organizations that have the ability to get funds quickly to local organizations that serve vulnerable populations. It will support a variety of activities, such as:
 - Increasing volunteer-based home deliveries of groceries and medications
 - Providing transportation services, like accompanying or driving seniors or persons with disabilities to appointments
 - Scaling up help lines that provide information and support
 - Helping vulnerable Canadians access government benefits
 - Providing training, supplies, and other required supports to volunteers so they can continue to make their invaluable contributions to the COVID-19 response
 - Replacing in-person, one-on-one contact and social gatherings with virtual contact through phone calls, texts, teleconferences, or the Internet

Today's town hall time stamps

- As promised in the [Operational Bulletin](#) earlier today, we have time stamped the questions and outlined the key themes from today's all-staff town hall.
 - [View the story on POD](#)
 - [View a PDF of the story on our website](#) (if you are off the network)
- If you missed the town hall, you can:
 - [View the full recording online](#)
 - [View the highlights reel on YouTube](#)
- Our next all-staff town hall will be held on **Thursday, April 23** from **10:30-11:30 a.m.**
- As a friendly reminder, you can find information about our past and upcoming town halls [on our website](#).

Reminder: COVID-19 communications survey

- We want to know if the communication you're receiving from PHSA, at this moment in time, is meeting your needs or if there are changes we can make to support you better.
- Please take **two minutes** to share your feedback **by Friday, April 24**.
- All responses are anonymous. We will use the summary report to evaluate how our communication channels and approach can evolve.

→ [Take the survey here](#)

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](#).