



Critical COVID-19 News

Information for employees, medical staff, paramedics and contractors

April 22 at 5:50 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

All around us, you can feel the shift – and with that some new anxiety – about what comes next in our response to COVID-19.

On the one hand, we can hear the eagerness in the voices of our staff members who are hopeful about resuming services that have been put on hold. And on the other, there is concern about what, realistically, is possible when so many of the current societal restrictions must remain in place indefinitely. Understanding what caregiving could – and should – look like going forward is quickly emerging as a top priority, but it still remains secondary to ensuring the ongoing safety and wellbeing of our staff and the people in our care today.

The latter is an important reminder for all of us as health care providers, but also for society at large. People are anxious to resume their lives and becoming increasingly short-tempered with those who appear to be “breaking the rules” and potentially holding us back from progress. We've said it before, but this is a moment for health care workers to be leaders: we can engage in planning for what comes next, but we need to walk, not run. We can, alongside Dr. Bonnie Henry, be the voices of calm and emphasize that patience *today* translates to long-term gain and better health for *everyone* in the future. Thank you for all you are doing to show up well today, and for all of the thought you are putting into tomorrow.

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

Highlights:

News from the provincial government:

- 1. Today's update from the Provincial Health Officer**
- 2. Federal government support for post-secondary students and recent graduates**

Other important updates:

- 3. Thursday's all-staff town hall**
- 4. PHSA's COVID-19 communications**

Today's update from the Provincial Health Officer

- Today, Dr. Bonnie Henry outlined the ongoing community outbreaks in B.C. that remain a concern, including new outbreaks in long-term care and assisted-living facilities and at the United Poultry Company.
- She emphasized that we must hold the line on our protective measures and that, before we can ease restrictions, we must see a continued decline in both the number of new cases and the number of outbreaks.
- Read more in [today's statement](#).

Federal government support for post-secondary students and recent graduates

- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau today [announced close to \\$9 billion](#) in support for post-secondary students and recent graduates in a plan will help provide the financial support they need this summer, help them continue their studies in the fall, and help many get the experience they need to start their careers.
- Measures include launching:
 - the proposed Canada Emergency Student Benefit, which would provide support to students and new graduates who are not eligible for the Canada Emergency Response Benefit.
 - the new Canada Student Service Grant, which will help students gain valuable work experience and skills while they help their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The Government of Canada will also expand existing federal employment, skills development, and youth programming to create up to 116,000 jobs, placements, and other training opportunities to help students find employment and develop valuable skills this summer and over the coming months.

Thursday's all-staff town hall

- Join PHSA's CEO and president Benoit Morin at our next virtual town hall for COVID-19: **Thursday, April 23, 2020 from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**
- In addition to Benoit's CEO address, we'll share the latest Public Health and Supply Chain updates—and spend most of our time on Q&As. Remember to [log-on to Slido](#) using the event code **#PHSAtownhall** to ask or “like” questions in the queue.
- We're offering three options for viewing:
 - 1) Watch the webcast live at 10:30 a.m. using this link:**
<https://mediasite.phsa.ca/Mediasite/Play/d4f318dcaea7449d8251a9be4d5a9c951d>
If you experience any technical issues, please try using Internet Explorer as your browser.
There is no password needed to watch. If you are prompted to log in, it means the webcast connections are at capacity (we are prioritizing our clinical applications) and you should use options 2 or 3.
 - 2) Listen by teleconference live at 10:30 a.m. 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.
- As a friendly reminder, you can find information about the town hall viewing options – and recordings from previous town hall – in the [staff resources section](#) of our website.

PHSA's COVID-19 communications

- Please share your feedback with us!
- 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. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact phsacomm@phsa.ca.

→ [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](#).