



Critical COVID-19 News

Information for employees, medical staff, paramedics and contractors

March 25 at 6:45 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

We continue to extend our gratitude to each and every one of you for your ongoing efforts. Across PHSA – and across the health care system – we are serving the province of British Columbia by supporting the response to COVID-19. There have been long hours and hard days – and the resilience, commitment and collaboration we are witnessing is truly remarkable.

Every PHSA team member is playing a critical role. Thank you for your continued dedication.

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

Highlights:

Breaking news from the provincial government:

1. B.C. government's temporary rental supplement

Other important updates:

1. Draft Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) advice
2. Tomorrow's virtual, all-staff town hall
3. Update: Tracking overtime for non-contract managers and staff
4. COVID-19 redeployment opportunities

B.C. government's temporary rental supplement

- The Province [announced today](#) it is implementing a number of additional measures to keep people housed and protect their health. Some of the immediate measure include:
 - A new temporary rent supplement that will provide up to \$500 per month, paid directly to landlords.
 - Halting evictions by ensuring a landlord may not issue a new notice to end tenancy for any reason. However, in exceptional cases where it may be needed to protect health and safety or to prevent undue damage to the property, landlords will be able to apply to the Residential Tenancy Branch for a hearing.

- Halting the enforcement of existing eviction notices issued by the Residential Tenancy Branch, except in extreme cases where there are safety concerns.
- Freezing new annual rent increases during the state of emergency.

Draft Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidance

- Earlier today, some PHSA employees, physicians and paramedics may have seen communication from another health authority, which contained draft advice related to new personal protective equipment (PPE) guidelines from the Ministry of Health. The official ministry order is anticipated to come within the next 24-48 hours.
- In an environment marked by day-to-day and sometimes hour-to-hour change, we want to make sure any guidance/direction we offer our people – especially as it relates to the deeply important topic of PPE – is accurate and appropriate to your area of practice.
- In the meantime, we are confident that our staff and physicians are already taking great care to use PPE in an evidence-based manner consistent with infection prevention and control recommendations for their particular areas of direct patient care and the populations they serve. Please continue to do so as we await the new direction from the ministry.
- As soon as we have confirmed advice from the ministry, we work with our program and infection control leaders to ensure clear direction for our specialized direct care providers and communicate clear direction.

Tomorrow's virtual, all-staff town hall

- Our next all-staff, virtual COVID-19 town hall will be tomorrow (Thursday, March 26) from **10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**
- We continue to host these town halls regularly to share the latest updates and answer your questions through Slido.
- You have three options to join:
 1. **Watch the webcast live at 10:30 a.m.** by going to this link: <http://mediasite.phsa.ca/Mediasite/Play/ce626f71c0844e0aad870f49766b952a1d>
 2. **Listen by teleconference live at 10:30 a.m.** by calling **1-833-353-8610** and using **Participant code 4478028 #**. (Note: this is a new number and differs from previous town halls).
 3. **Watch the webcast on demand after 12:30 p.m.** Use the same link above to watch the webcast recording on demand one-hour after the event ends. There is no difference between the live or recorded experience. You can access the link outside the network if you're working remotely.
- To watch previous town hall recordings, visit the staff resources section of PHSA's website: phsa.ca/covid19staff
- For questions, continue to ask your supervisor or send them in to Slido.com using the event code #PHSATownHall

Update: Tracking overtime for non-contract staff and managers

- We appreciate that many of our team members are working significant amounts of sustained overtime in an effort to manage the response to COVID-19. We are very grateful the continued dedication and efforts of our entire workforce.

- **For unionized staff:** The collective agreement terms and conditions continue to apply.
- **For non-contract employees:** During the COVID-19 extraordinary event, they will be able to accrue overtime for hours related to COVID-19 without it impacting their ability to also earn compensatory time off (CTO). Specific criteria apply; details on the criteria and the process they should follow are posted on our website under [Leaves & Timekeeping](#).
- **For non-contract managers:** While they are not normally eligible for overtime, due to the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, they may be eligible for extraordinary hours related to COVID-19. This includes individuals: who are typically in jobs of salary ranges 8 and above; whose primary responsibilities consist of supervising or directing, or both supervising and directing, human or other resources; and who are in a leadership capacity. Specific criteria apply; details on the criteria and the process they should follow, which includes submitting a weekly tracker template, are also posted on our website under [Leaves & Timekeeping](#).

COVID-19 redeployment opportunities

- The situation around COVID 19 – and how it impacts our workforce – is changing on a daily, sometimes hourly, basis. Now, more than, ever, we have a critically important job to do and we must continue to work together across PHSA to make this happen.
- This means prioritizing the work required for management of COVID-19 as we continue to deliver care to patients and families across the province.
- Many PHSA staff have expressed keen interest in helping – the strong sense of community has been uplifting and inspiring.
- Please discuss with your manager and then complete the below if you are interested in redeployment opportunities and submit the completed [redemption form](#) to covidredemption@phsa.ca. If you have any licences/credentials, please provide scans/photocopies where possible.

Thank you for your continued dedication

The service that each and every one of you offers for our patients and families – and the essential support you provide to our 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.
- Continue to 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.
- Continue to check the [BCCDC's website](#) as a trusted source of information.
- We have opened up a [new staff COVID-19 section on phsa.ca](#) where employees can access the same information that is posted on POD, but when off the network.
- BCEHS alerts and updates are on 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](#).