

Critical COVID-19 News

Information for employees, medical staff, paramedics and contractors

March 30 at 5 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 extend our sincere gratitude to each and every one of you. The dedication you continue to show for patients and families, and your commitment and courage to serving the province of British Columbia, is incredible to witness. As we enter into the week ahead, please know there are [many workplace wellness resources in place](#) to support you.

We appreciate there is a lot of information coming to you. Our daily bulletins contain the latest workforce information for PHSA. **Please read them carefully.**

Highlights:

Breaking news from government:

1. **Pay parking for staff, physicians and patients temporarily suspended**

Other important updates:

1. **Tomorrow and Thursday: Two all-staff, virtual town halls this week**
2. **Programs-specific Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidelines in progress**
3. **New phone number for collection site at BC Children's and Women's**

Pay parking for staff, physicians and patients temporarily suspended

- Minister of Health Adrian Dix [announced today](#) that pay parking for health care staff, physicians, patients and the public will be suspended at all hospitals across the province. This is a temporary measure to support our staff, our patients and the public. **This will take effect April 1, 2020 and will be in place until further notice.**
- To ensure equitability for all staff and medical staff, whether they are working from home or at health authority sites, PHSA is temporarily suspending payroll deductions or will reimburse parking fees.

- All PHSA employees and medical staff, including those admin and support services, working in hospitals, facilities and office buildings, will have free parking, including those who pay by payroll deduction, those with discounted daily rates, those with parking arrangements in a private lot and medical staff who pay annually.
- Payroll deduction will cease starting in the month of April and will cease until further notice. Staff who pay a discounted daily rate will park without payment, as parking machines will be turned off. Details for reimbursement for those who pay privately or pay daily rates, and for contract physicians who pay annually, will be forthcoming.
- Of note, at 3 pm today, the [City of Vancouver announced](#) that it is lifting parking restrictions throughout the city. It is responding to the changing demands for parking, particularly for health care workers, by relaxing parking enforcement in several areas. Effective immediately, the City of Vancouver is temporarily suspending enforcement of the following:
 - Metered parking
 - Rush-hour zones
 - Residential permit-parking zones
 - Parking time limits, including the three-hour parking restriction
- Please continue to watch for similar updates from other municipalities.

Tomorrow and Thursday: Two all-staff, virtual town halls this week

- We are increasing the frequency of our all-staff, virtual town halls to provide staff updates and address your questions about COVID-19. This week, you'll hear from leaders on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Tomorrow's town hall (**March 31, 2020**) will take place from **10:30 – 11:30 a.m.** and focus on some of the most timely topics of the past 48 hours, including parking, single site registration and child care.
- Access to our clinical applications remains a priority, and as such, you may experience challenges with connectivity.
- 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/ae56994fb95341f19f75c7241b7a70e31d>
There is no password needed to watch. If you are prompted to log in, it means the webcast connections are at capacity 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.
- To watch previous town hall recordings, visit the staff resources section of PHSA's website: phsa.ca/covid19staff
- Questions can be submitted in advance via Slido.com using the event code #PHSATownHall. 'Like' questions that are similar to yours to help us prioritize topics. Not all questions will be answered directly but they help inform all future communication.

Programs-specific Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidelines in progress

- As referenced last week, the Ministry of Health, in partnership with PHSA's Provincial Infection Control Network (PICNet) and BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), has released to all health authorities a number of draft documents related to PPE for health care workers. This includes:
 - *COVID-19: Emergency Prioritization in a Pandemic: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Allocation Framework* (March 2020), which includes strategies and detailed guidance on PPE prioritization in all care settings for a range of individuals.
 - *B.C.'s Emergency Prioritization in a Pandemic: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Allocation Framework* (the PPE Framework), which is intended to assist in planning for health care providers to have access to the PPE they need to be and feel safe, while conserving and managing BC's critical PPE supply stocks.
- These documents have been shared with PHSA's clinical program leaders and Workplace Health representatives, allowing them to work collaboratively with Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) to create evidence-based guidelines specific to the patient populations they serve.
- These patient population or program-specific PPE guidelines are nearly complete and if they have not already, will soon be posted to PHSA's program websites, and then on the phsa.ca website in the [Staff Resources section](#).
- We thank everyone who has invested so much time and thoughtfulness into creating PPE guidelines that will make sense based on the care we provide and the spaces in which we provide it.

New phone number for collection site at BC Children's and Women's

- A reminder that if you meet the criteria for COVID-19 testing and wish to have a sample collected at the BC Children's and Women's campus collection centre located inside Entrance 77, you must pre-register by calling the NEW registration number at 604-875-2154.
- Registration and clinic hours are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Parking for the staff collection clinic is available across from Entrance 77.
- More information about staff COVID-19 staff testing, along with the full list of staff collection centres, is available on the [staff COVID-19 section](#) of our website.

Thank you for your continued dedication

The service that each and every one of you offers for patients and families – and the essential supports 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.
- 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](#).