



COVID-19

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

March 10, 2020

Providence Health Care, with our partners at Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), VCH Medical Health Officers, the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), continue to monitor cases of COVID-19.

What's new: week of March 9, 2020

- Yesterday, the Province of British Columbia announced the first death connected to COVID-19. A man in his 80s with underlying health issues, who had tested positive for COVID-19, passed away yesterday. Our deepest sympathies are shared with the family of the resident who passed away. He is one of two residents of the North Vancouver long-term care home, Lynn Valley Care Centre Lodge, who tested positive for COVID-19 in addition to two health care providers.
- As of March 9th, there are 32 confirmed positive cases in B.C. to date.
- PHC has launched a website for staff and medical staff addressing their concerns, questions, protocols, and guidelines for COVID-19. [Click here to view the website](#). This website will be updated daily.
- Dr. Janet Kow, PHC Senior Medical Director Acute Care; and Amanda Harvey, Corporate Director & St. Paul's Site Co-Lead were appointed to lead PHC's COVID-19 response plan, with representation from infection prevention and control, occupational health & safety, supply chain, professional practice, contract services, medical staff, acute, ambulatory and long-term care.

New COVID-19 website for PHC staff and medical staff

PHC staff and medical staff now have a dedicated website for all important COVID-19 information, available at work and at home on their mobile or desktop devices.

[Click here to view the website](#)

This website includes:

- Most recent updates from PHC, VCH and the Government of B.C.;
- Frequently asked questions and their answers;
- Guideline and protocol documents (PHC specific changes will be uploaded as changes are made);
- Resources including posters, videos, past bulletins, and more information to come (such as materials for patients and/or residents), and more.

Visit COVID19.providencehealthcare.org

Long Term Care Education Sessions

With COVID-19 at the top of everyone's mind right now, PHC's Long Term Care facilities will be hosting special informational sessions for residents and their families to address their questions and concerns. These sessions are as scheduled below:

Date	Location	Time
Tuesday, March 10	Brock Fahrni 3 rd Floor Multipurpose Room	2-3pm
Wednesday, March 11	Holy Family Hospital Main Dining Room	2-3pm
Thursday, March 12	St. Vincent's: Langara Atrium	2-3pm
Friday, March 13	Mount Saint Joseph Hospital Main Dining Room	2-3pm
Friday, March 13	Youville Main Floor Lounge	11:15am-12pm
Wednesday, March 18	Honorio Conway Tenant TV Lounge	2:30-3:30pm

Letters will be distributed to residents and their families.

Making sure your clinic is set up for proper respiratory etiquette

To help encourage proper respiratory etiquette with our patients and clients, it is important that individual clinics are set up with the right tools. If a patient presents with symptoms they should:

- Use hand sanitizer,
- Don a mask,
- And be seated away from other patients.

Clinics should have:

- Masks for patients with symptoms,
- Hand Sanitizer,
- Where possible, a seated area at least 2 meters away from other patients,
- And a respiratory etiquette poster. [Click here to download and print your own Stop the Spread of Germs poster.](#)

Please note that all clinics and departments are asked to follow their usual process for requesting new supplies.

Top Questions from PHC Staff this Week

Q – Will wearing a mask protect me, my patients and/or residents?

Masks should be used by sick people to prevent transmission to other people. A mask will help keep a person's droplets in.

It may be less effective to wear a mask in the community when a person is not sick themselves. Masks may give a person a false sense of security and are likely to increase the number of times a person will touch their own face (e.g., to adjust the mask).

Health care workers will wear surgical masks, eye protection and gowns in order to protect themselves and other patients. During health care procedures in which aerosol sprays may be generated (for example, when giving certain inhaled medications), health care workers should wear specialized N95 masks.

Q – If I've recently traveled, should I stay home and self-isolate?

As of March 2, 2020, the Public Health Agency of Canada's advice to travelers – including VCH and PHC staff – returning from China's Hubei Province, and Iran is for them to stay home from school or work. They are asked to closely monitor their symptoms and avoid contact with others for 14 days after leaving those areas. International travelers returning from other countries are not asked to self-isolate or stay home from work, though they should monitor themselves for symptoms. If this advice from the Public Health Agency of Canada changes, we will inform staff.

This recommendation was made out of an abundance of caution. Call 8-1-1 if you develop symptoms.

Q – What do I do if I think a patient of mine has COVID-19?

PHC staff are encouraged to follow routine clinical practices around all respiratory infections.

At a minimum, patients meeting the current national criteria should be tested. **MHO approval for testing is no longer required. The current criteria for testing are as follows:**

- Patients with any of the following symptoms:
 - fever (temp > 38° Celsius)
 - cough (new onset or exacerbation of chronic cough)
 - difficulty breathing / shortness of breath

- Travel within 14 days of symptom onset to an affected area: Mainland China, Hong Kong, Iran, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and South Korea
 - OR close contact with a confirmed or probable case of COVID-19
 - AND no clear alternative diagnosis

In addition, testing is at the discretion of the physician assessing the patient and their clinical judgement. Physicians and clinics that do not normally obtain tests for Influenza A/B and RSV are not required to do testing.



[Check out the new PHC COVID-19 website for more FAQs](#)

Resources

New COVID-19 Posters are now available in multiple languages. You can find them using the links below or on COVID19.providencehealthcare.org

- [Facility Poster \(English\)](#)
 - [Facility Poster – Large \(English\)](#)
 - [Facility Poster \(Farsi\)](#)
 - [Facility Poster \(Simplified Chinese\)](#)
 - [Facility Poster \(Traditional Chinese\)](#)
 - [Facility Poster \(Punjabi\)](#)
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Questions?

Email COVID-19@providencehealth.bc.ca for more information or check out the [new PHC COVID-19 website](#) for staff and medical staff.