



# COVID-19

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

March 13, 2020

### UPDATE: COVID-19 impact to staff

#### What do I need to know?

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. Below are the latest developments.

#### Staff travel

We are asking all staff not to travel abroad at this time following government's travel advisory on travel outside of Canada announced yesterday, March 12, 2020.

#### Self-isolation

All PHC staff who do not have symptoms are required to self-isolate at home for 14 days as a precautionary measure when they:

- Return from travel at any time from the Hubei Province in China, Iran or Italy
- Have had close contact with a presumptive or confirmed case and have been instructed by a qualified medical practitioner
- Are otherwise instructed by a qualified medical practitioner

**\*New\* Please be advised that self-isolation does not apply to health-care workers who travel outside of Canada and provide direct patient care (e.g. physicians, nurses, care aides, etc.) unless they have travelled to Hubei Province in China, Italy, or Iran.**

Non-health care providers who are currently travelling outside of Canada and return from travel after 4pm on Thursday, March 12 are required to self-isolate at home for 14 days.

In addition, non-health care providers who willingly choose to travel outside of Canada after 4pm on March 12 will be required to self-isolate for 14 days upon return; these staff should not expect to be paid during this time of self-isolation. More information on this will be forthcoming.

However, all health-care providers who have travelled outside of Canada are required to self-monitor daily and use appropriate PPE when providing care. If a health-care worker

develops symptoms, they should self-isolate and contact the regional medical health officer for Vancouver Coastal at 1-604-527-4893.

If a health-care provider develops symptoms while providing care, they should immediately put on a mask and finish any essential services they are providing before self-isolating.

Employees may not unilaterally choose to self-isolate.

### **Return to work after self-isolation or illness**

Staff will be cleared to return-to-work if they remain asymptomatic during the self-isolation period.

Staff who are confirmed positive for COVID-19 will be cleared to return-to-work after they receive two negative test results from a qualified medical health practitioner and as per direction from the Provincial Workplace Health Call Centre.

### **Reporting of self-isolation and/or illness**

If staff are required to self-isolate they must:

- Call EARL and use “other” as a reason for absence
- Contact their manager regarding any direction they have received to self-isolate
- Provide electronic documentation confirming any requirement to self-isolate, when applicable.

### **Vacation cancellation**

PHC is supportive of staff who wish to cancel their approved vacations that are scheduled to occur within the next 60 days. We encourage all staff canceling vacation within this 60-day period to submit alternate vacation dates as rescheduled vacation will be based solely on operational requirements.

### **Questions?**

If you have questions or concerns, please email [COVID-19@providencehealth.bc.ca](mailto:COVID-19@providencehealth.bc.ca)

### **Information and resource links:**

PHC has launched a website for staff, medical staff, and researchers to address concerns, questions, protocols and guidelines around sick-leave and compensation-in-lieu for COVID-19. [Click here to view the website](#). This website will be updated daily and is accessible from work and home on your mobile or desktop devices. Please review the COVID-19 website often to ensure you have the most up to date information or consult your leader if you have concerns or identify discrepancies.

Please refer to the attached letter for health care workers from Dr. Bonnie Henry and the attached Q&A for more information for staff.