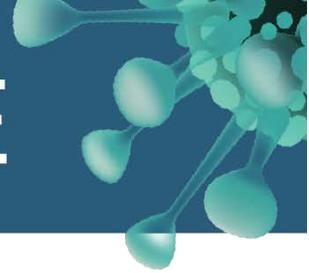


# COVID-19 UPDATE



## Physician Coordination Centre Bulletin

April 21, 2020

### Update on new and existing COVID-19 cases

- On April 20, the Ministry of Health confirmed 52 new cases of COVID-19 in B.C. for a total of 1699 cases in the province.
- Of this total, 49 patients are in intensive care or critical care units
- The total number of deaths as of April 20, 2020 was 86 deaths in the province, with 24 deaths in Fraser Health
- Fraser Health has 705 cases (April 20, 2020), of which 26 are in our ICU/HAU settings

Source: CEO Update April 20, 2020 & BCCDC

For detailed case counts please refer to the Situation Reports on the BCCDC COVID-19 [webpage](#)

### TOP QUESTIONS FROM PHYSICIANS

Additional questions from the Monday, April 13 “Conversation with an Expert Panel”. Dr. Roland Guasparini, Medical Health Officer has provided responses to the questions on COVID-19 testing.

**Q: Could we have more information circulated regarding reliability of the COVID-19 lab test? Many non-med administrative leaders assume it is 100% when making facility policy.**

- BCCDC guidance summary (April 10): Over the past two months, we have come to better understand COVID-19 test accuracy. We now know that false negative results can occur both early in the course of the infection as well as in severely infected patients, implying that a negative NAT does not definitively rule out COVID-19 infection. If, we have a negative test but the clinical suspicion is high, and positive test result will impact patient management, repeat the test, including lower respiratory tract samples.

**Q: Does B.C. have the testing capacity to start offering testing to higher risk community cases with mild / moderate at home symptoms?**

- Yes the Province has the capacity to test symptomatic community patients with mild/moderate symptoms that can be managed at home with self-isolation. Physicians and NPs can order COVID-19 testing based on their clinical judgement. Priority groups for testing are listed in the Medical Health officer update of [April 8, 2020](#).

**Q: Patients with diarrhea and no respiratory symptoms. What testing would you do?**

- New onset of gastrointestinal symptoms have been added to symptom list eligible for COVID-19 testing especially if patients are residents of Long-Term Care Facilities, or patients requiring admission to hospital or likely to be admitted, or people who are part of an investigation of a cluster or outbreak of COVID-19.

**Q: Why are we expanding our testing criteria when COVID-19 is already widespread in the community? Shouldn't this of been done in the early stages of the pandemic?**

- Case finding and contact tracing will continue to be important control measures to limit morbidity and mortality as we begin to ease some of the societal restrictions. Self-isolation of symptomatic individuals will still be requested regardless of testing. Testing had to be prioritized to ensure availability and speed for those at highest risk of infection or complications. Expanding criteria for testing is now possible for symptomatic individuals, but we still list priority groups.

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**Q: What is the current capacity for tests/day? What is the expected capacity that the province is trying to achieve? Do we have testing capacity at Surrey Memorial Hospital (SMH) yet?**

- Testing will become available at SMH in the next few weeks. Highest priority as testing becomes available at SMH will be hospitalized patients and other high risk patients. Plan is to have Fraser Health become self sufficient for testing. Provincial capacity has been about 5000 tests per day, although sometimes limited by availability of reagent. Expansion of provincial testing beyond the increase for Fraser Health is under discussion.

**Q: Canadian company reports a one hour fast test not using PCR technology. Can Fraser Health develop this test?**

- The type of rapid test approved recently in Canada is being used in some remote communities in Canada. Other available rapid tests are currently being evaluated by BCCDC & Health Canada. CIHR is also funding a number of Canadian rapid test projects. We should soon be self sufficient in testing capacity, reducing TAT.

**Q: Are there any plans to do serology testing to check for immunity post COVID-19 infection, it could also help identify infected patients, any thoughts?**

- BCCDC is currently evaluating a number of antibody tests. These include point of care tests. Results of evaluation may be available within a few weeks. IgM may be detectable as early as 5-7 days after symptom onset, with IgG detectable 12 days after symptom onset. How these new tests will be deployed is under discussion. There may be some use in patient management alongside viral detection. May be used to determine immune status for workplace placement. Will be used for epidemiologic surveys to help us understand the movement of the virus in the population, and success of control measures.

**Q: Do you have any information about vaccine development and timing for approval in Canada?**

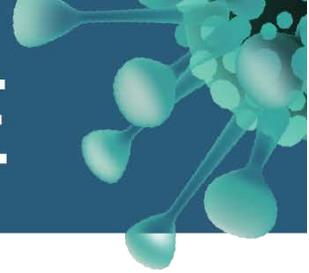
- Health Canada is fast tracking COVID-19 vaccine approval steps and is tracking vaccine candidates. Most regulatory bodies estimate 12-18 months for vaccine trials and approvals. For details see [here](#).
- WHO is [coordinating worldwide efforts](#) and proposing an international, multi-site, individually randomized controlled clinical trial that will enable the concurrent evaluation of the benefits and risks of each promising candidate vaccine within 3-6 months of it being made available for the trial (Solidarity Trial.)
- To follow all vaccines in development see [here](#).

## PHYSICIAN RESOURCES

### CEO Updates

- You are encouraged to check your Fraser Health emails for [daily CEO Updates](#) (note: Intranet link) for specific data on COVID-19 and responses to top questions including:
  - Use PPEs based on the applicable precautions for the client during this COVID-19 pandemic & observe airborne precautions for any aerosol-generating procedures by wearing an N95 respirator.
  - COVID-19 outbreak at Deltaview and continued implementation of comprehensive strategies to prevent and respond to COVID-19 in long-term care, assisted living and independent living facilities.
  - Currently in the response phase to flatten the curve with comprehensive measures across the board and targeted measures in vulnerable settings. Also, planning and preparing for recovery.
  - Abbotsford Regional Hospital is currently caring for 70 cases from Mission impacted by COVID-19. We continue to work closely with our federal and provincial partners to prevent further spread.
  - Fraser Health visitor policy continues to prevent non-essential visitors from entering sites.

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- Work underway with long-term and assisted living facilities to implement the Single Site Order
- Our IMIT security team worked with Zoom to [enhance](#) security and patient privacy.
- Broadening testing criteria to ensure we are not missing cases, outbreaks and clusters in communities.
- The [BCCDC](#) has a new [Testing Centre Finder](#) to help you identify locations. Fraser Health's testing and assessment centres are posted [here](#). Testing is not required if a patient has no symptoms, even if in contact with a confirmed case or a returning traveller.

## COVID-19: Where we are. Considerations for next steps.

- [Modelling presentation](#) prepared for by BC Ministry of Health April 17, 2020

## Medical Health Officer Updates

- For most recent updates [click here](#).

## IMIT Resources

- A dedicated [mailbox](#) has been set up to support physicians with non-urgent inquiries related to any IT issues, including but not limited to email support, remote access & Meditech.
- Receive COVID-19 updates via **text messaging**. Sign up [here](#) using keyword 'COVID'.

## Rehabilitation for COVID-19 patients

- View a recently published [guide](#) to help COVID-19 discharged patients and caregivers with rehabilitation-reconditioning and strengthening at home.
- The Rehabilitation Network has posted a number of resources on their [intranet page](#).

## Supporting Advance Care Planning (ACP) and serious illness conversations

- Resources are available to support clinicians to start or continue ACP conversations specific to COVID-19. Visit the Clinical Resources & Forms section on the [Medical Staff COVID web page](#).

## Offers and discounts for health care professionals

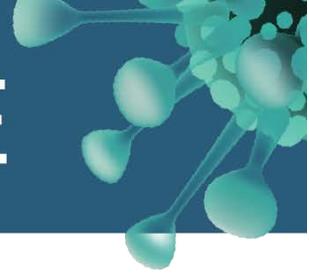
- To show support and say thank-you, several businesses and organizations are offering discounts to health care professionals. Visit the [Fraser Medical Staff COVID-19 page](#).

## WELLNESS & SUPPORT

### Medical Staff Psychological and Well Being Supports available

- [Supports](#) vary from in-person to telephone conversations and group sessions. These include emotional support, mental health and well being, stress and anxiety management and self-care tools.

# COVID-19 UPDATE



- Doctors Virtual Lounge: Peer support for Fraser Health physicians using Zoom (Tuesday noon and Thursdays 6 pm) to support ourselves and each other during this crisis facilitated by Dr. Elizabeth Froese and others. [Download the Calendar on your Smartphone or Tablet](#) by clicking save.

## Physician Coaching Service (30 or 60 minute virtual sessions - no charge)

- Certified 'Physician' Coaches provide 1-1 coaching to support decision-making and urgent action
  - Fraser Health Medical Leaders – contact [physiciancoordinationcentre@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:physiciancoordinationcentre@fraserhealth.ca)
  - Frontline physicians, retired physicians, residents, medical students – contact Physician Health Program 604-398-4300 or [info@physicianhealth.com](mailto:info@physicianhealth.com)
  - Article from a group of physician coaches: [Thriving while surviving – why we need more healthcare coaching support during the COVID-19 crisis](#)

## HUMAN RESOURCE PLANNING

### Medical Staff Availability for COVID-19

- [Thrive Physician Availability Tool](#) allows physicians to share their schedule and availability on a rolling 14 day cycle. Watch the [video](#).
- Sharing your availability does not imply that you will be required to work.
- For any issues with sign in or technical concerns contact [supportc19ccrm@thrive.health](mailto:supportc19ccrm@thrive.health).

## REMINDER ABOUT MEDIA

If you receive a media inquiry or see media at any of our locations please contact the Fraser Health media line at 604-613-0794 or by email at [media@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:media@fraserhealth.ca)

<b>Physician Coordination Centre</b>		<a href="mailto:physiciancoordinationcentre@fraserhealth.ca">physiciancoordinationcentre@fraserhealth.ca</a>		
<b>Previous Bulletins:</b>	<a href="#">March 31, 2020</a>	<a href="#">April 3, 2020</a>	<a href="#">April 8, 2020</a>	<a href="#">April 16, 2020</a>
The information in this bulletin pertains to physicians and medical staff and is a summary of updates and new resources on COVID-19. Please continue to visit the <a href="#">Fraser Health Medical Staff web page</a> for additional up-to-date information and resources.				
Physician Coordination Centre <a href="#">members</a> include: Dr. Kevin Afra, Elizabeth Armstrong, Dr. Neil Barclay, Dr. Peter Barnsdale, Dr. Ralph Belle, Dr. Elizabeth Brodtkin, Dr. Rita Ciconte, Dr. John Diggle, Dr. Raymond Dong, Dr. Joshua Greggain, Dr. Roland Guasparini, Dr. John Hamilton, Dr. Rob McDermid, Dr. Sarah Ostler, Dr. Connie Ruffo, Dr. Pam Thornton, Dr. Michael Yatscoff, Jag Sandhu, Kavita Sarwal, Jemimah Membreve, Tomi Daramola				
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