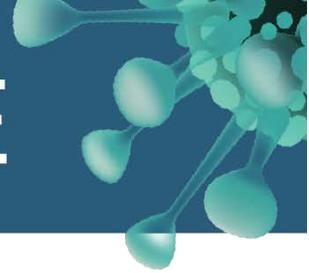


COVID-19 UPDATE



Physician Coordination Centre Bulletin

April 24, 2020

Update on new and existing COVID-19 cases

- On April 23, the Ministry of Health confirmed 29 new cases of COVID-19 in B.C. for a total of 1824 cases in the province.
- Of this total, 44 patients are in intensive care or critical care units.
- Total number of deaths as of April 22, 2020 was 94 deaths in B.C, with 27 deaths in Fraser Health.
- Fraser Health has 760 cases (April 23, 2020) of which 25 are in our ICU/HAU settings.

Source: CEO Update April 23, 2020 & BCCDC

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

CEO Town Hall with Physicians – New Format

CONVERSATION WITH CEO AND MEDICAL EXPERTS

- Updates from the CEO followed by a moderated conversation and general Q&A using SLIDO (www.slido.com; event code #medstaff)
 - On Mondays starting April 27 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
 - Topic for April 27 - COVID19 testing and clinical management.
 - Skype meeting details and t-con information previously circulated via email, can be requested again by emailing physiciancoordinationcentre@fraserhealth.ca.

TOP QUESTIONS FROM PHYSICIANS

Some additional questions from the Monday, April 13 “Conversation with an Expert Panel”. Rita Ciconte and Quinn Danyluk, Directors Infection Prevention have provided answers to the PPE questions.

Q: What is the current status of PPE availability for medical staff?

- There continues to be PPE across our sites that is available for staff and physicians. A number of processes are in place to ensure we maintain sufficient supplies of PPE, including:
 - Supply Chain continues to work with suppliers on securing all regular PPE.
 - Supply Chain is working with new and existing suppliers to source and secure alternative models of PPE. All products undergo comprehensive assessment and testing. This process is completed by a dedicated team of 10 health and safety experts working in close partnership with the supply chain team. Ensuring PPE items that get deployed are appropriate for use, meet all required standards and provide employees the protection they require. A similar process is in place for any donations received.
 - Health and Safety is working with target departments to implement alternative N95 models, reusable half-face respirators, and powered air-purifying respirators.
- We are receiving additional PPE supplies daily and maintaining these supplies in a number of areas including locally in your department, at centralized secure locations at your site and in the main health authority distribution warehouse. Supplies are being closely monitored to ensure that if levels are low at a

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particular site, items can be moved from the warehouse or alternate location to support your needs. If you are having difficulty obtaining PPE please discuss with your medical director and/or a site leader.

Q: Do you need goggles (not just safety glasses) when an aerosolizing generating procedure (AGP) is being performed?

- Yes, it is recommended that a full face shield **or** safety goggles be used for eye protection during AGP and/or where risk of significant BBF splash or spray. This requirement is highlighted in the [Use of Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) for Intubation Procedures](#) (note: Intranet link) and noted in practice documents where applicable. All sites were provided with safety glasses for use as part of the [extended use of eye protection and procedure mask guide](#) (note: Intranet link). The safety glasses provide protection from individuals touching their own eyes while in patient care areas and protection during many patient care activities where droplet precautions are in place and risk of BBF splash/spray is low. However, for AGP such as intubations, a face shield should be worn (these can be worn over the safety glasses if preferred (so that eye protection remains in place for the shift.) Each user should consider how their safety glasses fit during use. This includes for example considering how you do tasks where you are leaning forward near the patient's head/breathing zone – do your safety glasses slide down your nose (personal fit factor)? If there is a risk of the safety glasses sliding down/off or there is a risk of splash or patient coughing while you are leaning down near or below the patients face, a face shield should be donned.

Q: Should sites be collecting their N95 respirator masks?

- Yes, we are implementing a program to reprocess N95 respirators during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Sterilization of N95 respirators is under the direction of the B.C. Ministry of Health. Health authorities across B.C. have begun collecting and reprocessing N95 respirators using STERRAD low temperature sterilization in Medical Device Reprocessing (MDR) Departments. This process is validated and masks can be sterilized up to a maximum of two times. Reprocessed N95 respirators will be stored on site and will not be placed into circulation until direction is provided by the B.C. Ministry of Health.

Q: What is the appropriate infection control in the physicians' lounge? Should we be wearing masks and eye protection while coming in and out of the lounge?

- Use of procedure mask and eye protection is not required in non-patient care areas and the principle of physical distancing (minimum six feet apart) should be followed.

Q: Is home made cloth mask enough for public? What is the public recommendation for using masks?

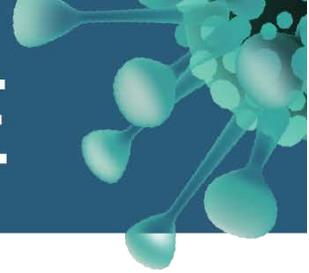
- A non-medical cloth mask or face covering can help the public keep their own droplets out of the air and off surfaces. Choosing to wear such a face covering is like coughing or sneezing into a tissue or your sleeve. A non-medical cloth mask or face covering, while helpful in containing your own droplets, will not protect you from COVID-19, nor is wearing one required of public if they can keep a safe distance from others. Use of a cloth mask does not negate the proven measures to stop transmission which are respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene.

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:

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- If you develop cold, influenza or COVID-like symptoms you can be assessed and get a COVID-19 test from a physician, nurse practitioner or [local community collection centre](#). If you do not have symptoms you do not require a test.
- If you need child care for children <5 years of age [fill out an online form](#) to identify your need for urgent child care.
- [Keep Learning BC](#), a central resource where families can find ideas for everyday educational activities and links to free learning resources including tips on how to help children learn at home.
- Work continues with long-term and assisted living facilities to implement the Single Site Order

Home Health Monitoring for COVID-19

- Launched home health monitoring service for patients who are, or suspected COVID-19 positives.
- Identified patients must have an email address, smart phone, tablet or computer for daily use.
- Refer to FYI for physicians [here](#).

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; response time < 4 hrs.
- Receive COVID-19 updates via **text messaging**. Sign up [here](#) using keyword 'COVID'.

Community Discounts and Appreciation of Health Care Workers

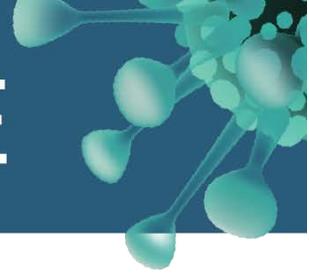
- To show support and say thank-you, several businesses and organizations are offering discounts to health care professionals. Visit the [Fraser Medical Staff COVID-19 page](#).

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.
- Doctors Virtual Lounge: Peer support for Fraser Health physicians using Zoom (Tuesday noon and Thursdays 6:00 p.m.) 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.

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

- Certified coaches provide 1-1 coaching to support decision-making and urgent action
 - Medical Leaders – contact physiciancoordinationcentre@fraserhealth.ca
 - Frontline physicians, retired physicians, residents, medical students – contact Physician Health Program 604-398-4300 or 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.](#)

Wellness Resources

- [ABC123](#) a memory aid and psychological first aid tool providing techniques to reduce anxiety and distress
- Canadian Society of Physician Leaders COVID19 Crisis [Bulletin](#) shares the five C's Resilience Framework

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.

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

Physician Coordination Centre		physiciancoordinationcentre@fraserhealth.ca			
Previous Bulletins:	March 31, 2020	April 3, 2020	April 8, 2020	April 16, 2020	
	April 21, 2020				
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 Fraser Health Medical Staff web page for additional up-to-date information and resources.					
For Physician Coordination Centre membership here .					
Dr. Kevin Afra, Elizabeth Armstrong, Dr. Neil Barclay, Dr. Peter Barnsdale, Dr. Ralph Belle, Dr. Elizabeth Brodtkin, 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. Akbar Mithani, Dr. Pam Thornton, Dr. Michael Yatscoff, Jag Sandhu, Kavita Sarwal, Jemimah Membreve, Tomi Daramola					
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