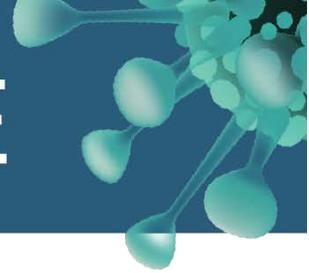


# COVID-19 UPDATE



## Physician Coordination Centre Bulletin

June 18, 2020

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

- On June 16, the Ministry of Health confirmed 22 new cases of COVID-19 in B.C. for a total of 2745 cases of which 4 patients are in intensive care or critical care units in the province.
- Fraser Health has had 1420 cases. 6 patients are currently hospitalized of which 1 is in our ICU/HAU setting.
- Total numbers of deaths as of June 16, 2020 are 168 in B.C., with 74 deaths in Fraser Health.
- Fraser Health staff and medical staff that are currently COVID-19+ are 7.

Source: CEO Update June 16, 2020 & BCCDC

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

### CEO TOWN HALL WITH PHYSICIANS

#### JOIN US FOR A CONVERSATION WITH THE CEO AND MEDICAL EXPERTS

- Update from Fraser Health CEO, Dr. Victoria Lee followed by a moderated conversation and general Q&A using SLIDO (<https://www.sli.do/>; event code #medstaff)
  - **SLIDO remains open.** Post your questions early [here](#) for our next conversation on June 22.
  - **Topic for June 22:** 'Critical Transitions – Access to Health Care During COVID-19'
  - **Upcoming Meetings** – June 22, July 20, Aug 24 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
  - Connect by [Skype or t-con](#). Details in your email & text message invites; or, request the [physiciancoordinationcentre@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:physiciancoordinationcentre@fraserhealth.ca)

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

#### MEDICAL STAFF SURVEY

Thank you for those who have already done the survey! The survey will remain open until **Sunday, June 21.**

To ensure we are meeting your needs, we need your feedback. [Click here](#)  to participate in this short survey (<5 minutes to complete). Participants will have a chance to win \$20 Starbucks coffee cards.

The winners of the \$20 Starbuck gift cards will be announced in the next bulletin.

### TOP QUESTIONS FROM PHYSICIANS

On Monday, June 8, 100 physicians joined Dr. Victoria Lee and Medical Experts at the weekly COVID-19 Town Hall. Panelists included Dr. Aamir Bharmal, Dr. Ingrid Tyler, Chris Buchner, and other senior leaders. Below are all the unanswered questions. Dr. Elizabeth Brodtkin, EMD IPC, Dr. Ingrid Tyler, MHO, Dr. Aamir Bharmal, MHO, Dr. Roland Guasparini, MHO, Dr. Dayan Muthayan, EMD and Rita Ciconte, Leader Health & Safety have provided answers below.

# COVID-19 UPDATE



**Q: With outbreaks in Ontario and the vulnerable status of migrant farm workers, are we looking at testing all farm workers in British Columbia?**

- There is currently no evidence to support mass testing of asymptomatic individuals with no confirmed exposure to COVID-19. Preventative guidance has been supplied to all farms in Fraser Health and provincial compliance officers are inspecting all sites. When public health is informed of a case in a farm, food processing or other higher risk setting we do case and contact management and carefully monitor the situation. We may order mass testing as part of our response to a case/exposure in these and other settings if indicated.

**Q: BCCDC recently shared that Fraser East has the highest incidence for COVID in BC. Can you provide more information about this?**

- Until recently new cases of COVID-19 were reported at a regional level (e.g., the number of cases in the Fraser Health region). There was a recent provincial decision to report the number of COVID-19 cases in smaller geographies (Fraser North, Fraser South, and Fraser East) and information on the distribution of COVID-19 cases at this level will soon be posted publicly. The distribution of cases can change based on cluster and outbreak activity. Surveillance reports are available on the BCCDC website at: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data>

**Q: Faith-based communities are asking when they would be able to open places of worship beyond 50 with appropriate IPC precautions. What is the status of this?**

- Maximum people in place of worship remains 50 people with the appropriate ICP precautions.
- Outdoor drive-in events can have up to 50 vehicles. See the links below for details:
  - [Mass gathering events](#)
  - [Guidance to faith based organizations](#)

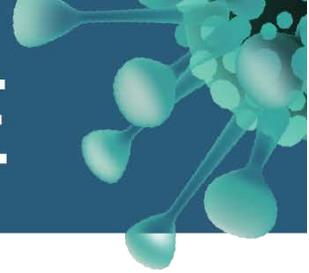
**Q: What are our guidelines for testing patients who are 'required' to have a negative test for flight travel?**

- Testing for COVID-19 is not recommended for people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19, unless ordered as part of an outbreak investigation or otherwise clinically indicated. LifeLabs has initiated limited private-pay COVID-19 testing by contract, based on direction from the Ministry.

**Q: WorkSafe BC and Public Health have guidelines for regulated health professions. Can you share what is being done in applying them to ward/staff work stations and emergency departments?**

- Collaboratively, all Health Authorities have developed COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Safety Plans that include completing visual inspections of each department using an Infection Prevention and Control recovery checklist to identify compliance levels with recommended Infection Prevention and Control and Health and Safety exposure control measures and any gaps that need to be addressed. This includes considerations on the use of engineering controls, establishing clear physical distancing indicators, guidance on maximum occupancy (e.g. elevators, staff only spaces, waiting rooms), provision of education and training, and ensuring processes are in place for provision of PPE where applicable. These inspections are to be completed by June 30 to identify any additional control measures that may be required. The [Fraser Health COVID-19 Safety Plan](#) is posted online and there is a [Manager Guide to Assessing the Workplace](#) available via the Fraser Health Management Centre.

# COVID-19 UPDATE



- Currently, as inspections and needs for further engineering controls or other exposure control measures are being identified (e.g. glass barriers/enclosures etc.) departments are to use physical distancing wherever possible and increased frequency of cleaning and disinfection of surfaces along with use of PPE where applicable. Please discuss any concerns you have related to work layout and social distancing challenges with your Medical Director and the applicable department manager.

**Q: Do you have an update on when physicians will be allowed to wear the level of PPE that they feel they need related to the patient in front of them and risk to their own health?**

- The focus throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic has been to reinforce use of the right PPE at the right time. This applies to all PPE including eye and facial protection, respiratory protections, gowns and gloves.

**Q: I work in the ED and I am concerned about seeing patients who are not wearing a mask unless I deem OK. Is there support for universal masking of emergency patients?**

- The issue of provision of masks to all patients, including those in emergency waiting rooms, has been escalated to the province via the Provincial Supply Chain Logistics Committee that is chaired by the Deputy Minister of Health. We are awaiting formal communication from the province at this time. Until a decision is made, the recommendation is that masks may be provided to patients during times where patient volumes are high and the waiting room space is too small to maintain physical distancing (six feet between each person).

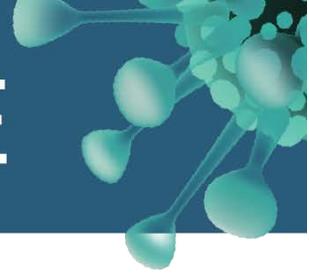
**Q: Physicians have no worker protection rights. Does Fraser Health have plans?**

- Fraser Health is committed to providing a safe work environment for all staff, including fee-for-service medical staff. We take both physical and psychological wellness in the workplace very seriously.
- We are forming a working group of leaders and physicians to develop a process whereby medical staff may call in sick and, if able, be assigned to virtual work (obviously if not too ill or just quarantined) and have someone else be assigned to that shift. We recognize that one solution will not fit all and each department's solution will be different. If you are interested in contributing to this solution on behalf of your department, please speak to your Regional Department Head or contact Dr. Dayan Muthayan at [physiciancoordinationcentre@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:physiciancoordinationcentre@fraserhealth.ca)
- Also working with Doctors of BC to see if there is a way to compensate doctors when sick or unable to work.

**Q: In February 2019 the Ministry produced a report on violence prevention in emergency departments. Royal Columbian Hospital was one of the six sites reviewed. Can you share an update on the status of the recommendations?**

- All Health Authorities are expected to comply with Violence Prevention in the workplace regulations for all staff. We have a set of Violence Prevention modules accessible by all staff on the Learning Hub [<https://accounts.learninghub.phsa.ca/Account/Login>]. Provincially, we are working on an in-class module for the high risk areas, these being the ER, MHSU, FP and LTC. This may have to be modified due to physical distancing.

# COVID-19 UPDATE



## PHYSICIAN RESOURCES

### What We Heard At The June 8 Forum

#### *Leadership Changes*

- Administrative changes stem from defining the structure to meet the functions the organization needs to achieve. These minor changes ensure we remain agile and flexible; not lose our focus on COVID-19 to bend the curve on the first wave and get ready for the second wave. The changes align with Fraser Health priorities for 2020-21.

#### *Public Health and Testing*

- Fraser Health had 13 assessment sites during COVID-19. These have been decreased based on current demand in the community. Fraser Health is committed to having service assessment functions available with an ability to ramp up quickly, if needed. Additionally, we have new machines.
- COVID-19 landscape chart shows 10 human clinical trials underway in Canada, China and the United Kingdom. The current provincial approach is minimizing, managing and modifying i.e. manage cases and clusters with rapid contact tracing, nimbly manage cases and clusters, and modify measures as needed.
- Hard to predict timeline for an effective vaccine development and release.
- A raised awareness organizationally for a potential winter surge. Leveraging learnings from the first wave to the importance of case and contact management i.e. quickly identifying COVID-19 cases and effectively locking down all incubating illness. Our goal continues to be to flatten the curve. We have a large cohort of staff trained working collaboratively across the continuum from acute to long-term care, primary and community care.

#### *PPE*

- Awaiting formal directives from the Ministry of Health to universally mask all patients in the emergency. Until a decision is made emergency departments are asked to offer masks to all when emergency is crowded and physical distancing not adequate.

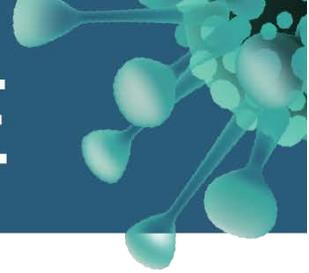
### CEO Updates

- Check your Fraser Health emails for [daily CEO Updates](#) (note: intranet link) for specific data, comments and responses to questions on COVID-19. Recent highlights include:
  - Restarted our services; now in [phase 2 of BC's Restart Plan](#).
  - Regional EOC led by Linda Dempster, VP Pandemic Preparedness and Response
  - 40 per cent of Home Health services are being provided virtually; approximately 1050 visits per day.
  - See [Safety Plan](#), for measures aimed to prevent exposures and reduce transmission of COVID-19
  - New MOH policy on visitors and essential visits. [Posted here](#) and when appropriate encourage communication with families as we embrace our new normal
  - Working during COVID-19 - send your story using the [fraserhealth.ca/ourstories](https://fraserhealth.ca/ourstories) submission form.
  - BC Coroners Service report on monthly illicit drug toxicity deaths released. Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health have highest number of illicit drug toxicity deaths in 2020. See [full report here](#).
  - Implementation of a patient-centered update of Meditech called Expanse has started. [Details here](#).

### Provincial Website News

- Two new outbreaks in BC but no new deaths – Mission Memorial Hospital and Tabor Home, Abbotsford
- Most new cases are linked to known outbreaks
- Withholding of regionalized COVID-19 statistics for two reasons: to avoid stigmatizing residents of heavily infected areas and to prevent complacency among places with low infection rates.

# COVID-19 UPDATE



- o B.C.'s transition away from multi-site employment for senior home care aides is nearly complete

## Surgical Renewal Plan

- [Virtual pre-admission for surgery to keep you safe at home – May 11, 2020](#)
- Additional elective surgery information can be found [here](#).
- For information on BC government surgical renewal plan click [here](#).

## Medical Health Officer Updates

- New Medical Health Officer Update released June 11. For most recent updates [click here](#).

## PPE Supplies for Community Physicians

- Connect with the Division of Family Practice in your region to place orders for PPE. For care providers who are not supported through their Division or are unsure where to go, contact the PPE Community Support Desk at [PPECommunitysupport@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:PPECommunitysupport@fraserhealth.ca) or call 604-561-2037. [View more details](#).

## CARING FOR SELF - WELLNESS & SUPPORT

### Medical Staff Psychological and Well Being Supports available

- Visit [Medical Staff COVID-19 website](#) section on 'Wellness, Support and Coaching' for information on wellness training opportunities, available supports and resources, anxiety reduction tools, resiliency framework and more

## 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).

## Physician Coordination Centre

[physiciancoordinationcentre@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:physiciancoordinationcentre@fraserhealth.ca)

Previous Bulletins:	<a href="#">March 31, 2020</a>	<a href="#">April 3, 2020</a>	<a href="#">April 8, 2020</a>	<a href="#">April 16, 2020</a>
	<a href="#">April 21, 2020</a>	<a href="#">April 24, 2020</a>	<a href="#">April 30, 2020</a>	<a href="#">May 7, 2020</a>
	<a href="#">May 14, 2020</a>	<a href="#">May 21, 2020</a>	<a href="#">May 28, 2020</a>	<a href="#">June 4, 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 [Fraser Health Medical Staff web page](#) for additional up-to-date information and resources.

For Physician Coordination Centre membership see [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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