

A Picture of Health

Keeping you up to date on the latest from B.C.'s Ministry of Health



Office of the Provincial Health Officer Resources

Reducing the spread of COVID-19

Summer 2020

Since February, B.C.'s Provincial Health Officer (PHO) Dr. Bonnie Henry and B.C. Health Minister Adrian Dix have been providing regular updates on the Province's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In a Provincial State of Emergency, the PHO can issue Orders as needed in a coordinated effort to protect public health, such as reducing the transmission of COVID-19 in B.C.

A number of orders related to health-care workers and health-care settings were issued in March and April 2020 to protect the most vulnerable persons in care, patients and health-care staff. They include:

- Limiting the movement of employees, contracted workers and volunteers who go in and out, and are routinely present at long-term care facilities and seniors' assisted living facilities;
- [Single-facility assignment](#) for staff working at long-term care facilities to lower the risk of transmission and infection of COVID-19 while maintaining adequate staffing levels in facilities to provide care; and,
- Authorization for licensed practical nurses to perform screening and SARS-CoV-2 swabs, to

support health-care professionals and broader COVID-19 testing in B.C. communities.

The PHO office, Ministry of Health, BC Centre for Disease Control and other public health partners have also developed additional resources for the health sector:

- [Clinical and health care regulated guidance for health-care workers](#)
- [Ethical decision-making framework](#)
- [B.C.'s Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Framework for the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Dr. Henry has also issued various orders outside of health-care settings to protect public health, including: restrictions on [mass gatherings](#) over 50 people, a requirement for employers to develop work safety plans and other safeguards that businesses as well as organizations must have for clients' and staff health. There is also compliance and enforcement guidance to bylaw officers and other provincial compliance officers about [physical distancing](#). While police officers and officials are not empowered to enforce (i.e. ticket or detain), they provide information and education as a first step to compliance and enforcement with local community businesses and organizations.

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We welcome your input and feedback.
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The Office of the Provincial Health Officer serving breakfast at Our Place Society, a non-profit community centre in Victoria, January 2020.

Dr. Henry and her office continue to work with public health experts in B.C., across the country and internationally on COVID-19 as well as other public-health related topics. They monitor the situation closely in B.C., nationally and around the world, issuing orders and developing guidance with partners to protect public health.

The relevant COVID-19 orders, letters, notices and guidance, are available on the [PHO COVID-19 website](#) and the [B.C. Centre for Disease Control's site](#).

For more information, or to subscribe, visit [A Picture of Health](#) or [BC Gov News](#).



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