UPDATED APRIL 15: INFORMATION ABOUT COVID-19 FOR HEALTH CARE AND COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES WORKERS

January 29, 2020

UPDATED APRIL 15

URGENT QUESTION ABOUT COVID-19 RESPONSE AT YOUR WORKSITE?
EMAIL covid19hotline@hsabc.org or call 1-604-549-5168. E-mail and the phone line are being monitored by labour relations experts 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, including weekends.

***NOTE: THIS HOTLINE IS AVAILABLE TO ADDRESS IMMEDIATE CONCERNS ABOUT MEMBERS’ SAFETY AND ISSUES ARISING FROM COVID-19 OPERATIONS AT WORK.***

INFORMATION FOR HSA MEMBERS

***SEE FAQS UPDATED REGULARLY HERE***

The BC Centre for Disease Control manages a range of provincial programs and clinics that contribute to public health and help control the spread of disease in BC, and is coordinating response to the current outbreak of Novel Coronavirus, and advises that health providers should ask patients presenting with respiratory illness about recent travel.

To facilitate early detection and containment, clinicians should notify their local medical health officer as soon as possible about patients presenting with:

- Fever and acute respiratory illness, with or without pneumonia
- Recent travel to Hubei Province (includes Wuhan City), China, Iran, and Italy within 14 days prior to symptom onset
- Another potential relevant exposure such a close contact with someone who was ill and had recently travelled to Hubei Province (includes Wuhan City), China, Iran, or Italy.

PUBLIC HEALTH LINKS

- [Up-to-date information from the BC Centre for Disease Control for health care workers](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)
- [BC Society of Respiratory Therapists COVID-19 information links](#)
- [April 6 - Daily COVID update from Government of BC](#)
- [April 4 - Daily COVID update from Government of BC](#)
- [April 3 - Daily COVID update from Government of BC](#)
INFORMATION FOR HSA MEMBERS - *SEE FAQS UPDATED REGULARLY HERE*

- **COVID 19 and HSA health care and community social services workers: Frequently Asked Questions**
  - March 26 - Government freezes student loan payments
  - March 21 - Government acting to protect province's most vulnerable
  - March 20 - Government commits to continue community social services program funding
  - March 20 - Memo to HSA Stewards: Update resources on HSA website
    - Information for stewards: Procedure on Right to Refuse Unsafe Work
  - March 19 - NUPGE and HSABC release new research showing higher personal protective precautions recommended for health care workers
  - March 18 - Important information for all HSA members
  - March 17 - Important information for HSA members working in community social services re: COVID-19
  - March 17 - Memo to HSA Occupational Health and Safety stewards (amended March 19)
  - March 15 - Letter to Health Care Workers from BC Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry
  - March 13 - HSA Memorandum to Chief Stewards
  - March 12 - HSA News Release: Health care union annual convention postponed
  - Feb. 27 - Update to HSA members
  - Feb 21, 2020 Letter to health care unions from BC Provincial Health Officer Bonnie Henry
  - Statement from Minister of Health Adrian Dix and BC Provincial Health Officer Bonnie Henry
  - Jan. 30 Statement on the COVID-10 Novel Coronavirus

**OUR LABOUR PARTNERS**

- April 1 - (NUPGE) Strong majority want government to halt rent, mortgage, and utility payments during COVID-19 crisis
- March 26 - (NUPGE) Details of new federal assistance for people unable to work because of COVID-19 pandemic
- March 23 - (CLC) Actions and resources to support workers
- March 20 - (BCFed) Resources for workers: A comprehensive list of useful links
- March 19 - (NUPGE) Amidst COVID-19 pandemic, we are likely to see a rise in domestic violence
- March 19 - (BCFed) Rent and mortgage relief, preventing evictions, needed to support workers through COVID-19 economic downturn
March 17 - (NUPGE) COVID-19: Safety is not negotiable

March 16 - (CLC) CLC Convention postponed

March 16 - (BCFed) Unions issue urgent call for paid and protected sick leave for all workers in BC

March 16 - (CLC) Supporting Workers in a Time of Crisis: Canadian Labour Congress calls for action

March 11 - (NUPGE) National Union of Public and General Employees (NUPGE) calls for improved coordinated response from governments

March 10 - (BC Fed) BC Federation of Labour statement on protection of workers

Feb 28 - (CLC) CLC Letter to Federal Finance Minister Bill Morneau on income security measures for workers during COVID-19 crisis

WHERE CAN I GET SUPPORT?

**CANADA’S COVID-19 ECONOMIC RESPONSE PLAN - resources for Canadians**

**BRITISH COLUMBIA’S COVID-19 RESPONSE PLAN - resources for British Columbians**

**PLAIN LANGUAGE GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS - Prof. Jennifer Robson, Carleton University**

April 11 - [https://www.healthworkerhousing.ca/](https://www.healthworkerhousing.ca/) Health Worker Housing is a volunteer initiative to connect property owners with healthcare workers in need of low-cost, short-term housing during the COVID-19 pandemic in Canada, including in Vancouver and Victoria

April 2 - United Way of Greater Victoria teams up with Accent Inns to provide free housing for essential health care workers

March 31 - Province launches child care resources for essential service workers - Register Now

March 31 - The BC Psychological Association is offering free support services for health care and other essential workers who are experiencing stress, anxiety, or uncertainty due to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic. This service can supplement the services covered by the extended health benefits you are entitled to under your collective agreement.

March 24 - Nursing students supporting health care professionals during COVID-19 outbreak

March 23 - BC government COVID-19 Action Plan: B.C.’s first steps to support people, businesses

March 23 - Actions and resources to support workers: Links compiled by the Canadian Labour Congress

March 20 - Resources for workers: A comprehensive list of links compiled by the BC Federation of Labour

Are you struggling at work during this crisis? Please refer to the disability management services under your collective agreement

March 18 - Community Savings Credit Union announces interest-free line of credit for existing and new members

COVID-19 and Anxiety - a resource from the Canadian Mental Health Association

Canada’s COVID-19 Emergency Response Plan

March 18 - HSA Memo: One-page summary of the assistance plan

**BC COVID-19 self-assessment tool**

**Community Health Services and Support**

**Community social services**

**Contract negotiations**

**Events**

**Health Science Professionals**

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