

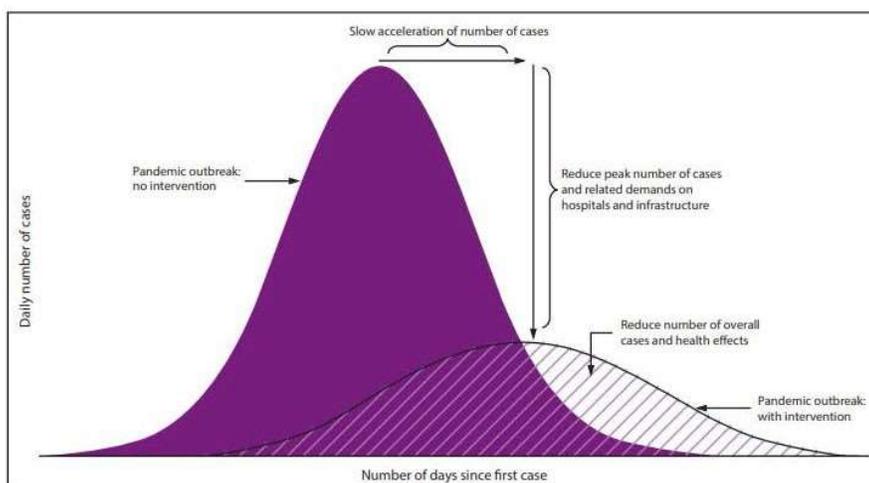
memorandum

#1 - INFORMATION FOR HSA STEWARDS: COVID-19

March 13, 2020

As the COVID-19 pandemic crisis continues to develop, HSA is working to ensure members' interests and concerns are well represented. HSA members are on the front lines of addressing the pandemic. Your continued and invaluable commitment as stewards to support HSA members helps ensure our health care system is equipped to continue to respond to the situation.

- The union is participating in weekly briefings with the Provincial Medical Health Officer. The goal of the public health measures taking place is to combat the spread of the virus with diligent surveillance, testing, tracing, isolating. As you know, Dr. Bonnie Henry has announced more extreme measures with a view to “flatten the curve” of the pandemic to try to avoid overwhelming the health care system, as has happened in Italy. The following chart explains what health officials mean when they say the goal is to flatten the curve:



Source: Adapted from: CDC. Interim pre-pandemic planning guidance: community strategy for pandemic influenza mitigation in the United States—early, targeted, layered use of nonpharmaceutical interventions. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC, 2007. <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/11425>.

- We are participating in twice-weekly meetings with health employers to keep abreast of collective agreement implications related to COVID 19. HSA is also involved in daily meetings with HEABC and OHS representatives from the Health Authorities to discuss OHS concerns such as personal protective

equipment use. We are also in communication with CSSEA to ensure the interests of members working in the community social services sector are being protected and advocated for.

- Information of importance to HSA members will be updated regularly on the [frequently asked questions](#) section of the union's website [here](#).
- Stewards are encouraged to refer to the resources on the website, and to contact their LROs as situations emerge at your worksites.

MEETINGS

- HSA recommends that HSA Chapter Meetings be cancelled or suspended until further notice to reduce unnecessary risks related to transmission. The efforts of public health officials are all aimed at stemming the tide of the virus to ensure our public health care system is equipped as well as possible to handle the health effects of this pandemic.
- When possible, HSA encourages stewards to conduct necessary meetings with management or grievors by telephone, and, if that is not possible, to practice social distancing measures, frequent hand-washing, and proper sneeze and cough etiquette.
- The risk of acquiring COVID 19 is low in BC, and if we follow the lead set by public health officials, the risk should remain low.