We have received a number of questions requesting clarification of the emergency response structure that is in place to respond to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The overall provincial and regional structure is outlined in Attachment 1 and described below.

The Government of BC has established a cross-government response structure that is enabling all Ministries to respond to the COVID-19 evolving situation in the province. This provincial structure consists of:

1. BC Government Cabinet sub-committee chaired by Premier Horgan and Minister Dix.
2. Deputy Minister committee chaired by the Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Deputy Minister, Emergency Management BC
3. A Comunication and Information Centre that will provide information to the general public. This Centre is currently being established.
4. Ministry of Health - Health Emergency Coordinating Centre (HECC). The Health Emergency Coordinating Centre includes the following streams of work:
	1. Public Health Operations
	2. Health System Operations (includes a Health Authority Chief Operating Officers group)
	3. Planning
	4. Logistics
	5. Finance

In Northern Health, we have set up the Northern Health Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). The attached diagram (Attachment 2) outlines the structure of the Northern Health Emergency Operations Centre. The EOC is supported by Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC) with Jim Fitzpatrick, Director, Northern BC, HEMBC providing critical leadership to the EOC.

In addition, each Chief Operating Officer has established a Health Services Delivery Area Emergency Operations Committee to oversee implementation of the actions agreed to provincially or at the NH EOC level. Site level committees will be established as they are needed.

A Divisions of Family Practice Reference Group has also been established and is chaired by Kelly Gunn, Vice President, Primary & Community Care. This reference group ensures that the Divisions of Family Practice have a mechanism to provide feedback and input on the planning and implementation underway.

A number of planning/task groups have been meeting over the last several weeks and incremental implementation steps are underway in alignment with the World Health Organization Pandemic Alert Levels. These task groups completed a two day intensive implementation planning exercise the week of March 9 and further implementation and escalation of response will occur the week of March 16.