

Date:	March 14, 2020
To:	All NH Physicians
From:	Dr. Ronald Chapman, VP Medicine Cathy Ulrich, CEO
Re:	COVID-19 Physician Information Update

The Provincial COVID-19 situation is rapidly evolving, as are the implications to Northern Health staff and physicians.

The following physician update on COVID-19 outlines:

- Current Ministry of Health prevention measures
- Current directive regarding travel and self-isolation
- Contact information related to physician COVID-19 questions

Ministry of Health prevention measures:

On March 12, 2020, the Ministry of Health announced the following measures to control the spread of COVID-19:

1. Events involving over 250 people must be cancelled.
2. British Columbians are to avoid non-essential travel outside Canada.
3. If a British Columbian travels outside of Canada, they must stay away from work or school for 14 days upon their return. This does not apply to health-care workers providing direct patient care (see below).
4. Schools will remain open: the situation will be closely monitored over spring break to assess whether further action should be taken.

Health Care Workers who travelled outside of Canada and self-isolation:

In a memo from the College of Physicians and Surgeons on March 13, 2020 Dr. Bonnie Henry from the Ministry of Health clarified the direction given regarding self-isolation for 14 days after international travel:

1. Self-isolation does not apply to health-care workers who travel outside of Canada and provide direct patient care (e.g. physicians, nurses, care aides, etc.) unless they have travelled to Hubei Province in China, Italy, or Iran.
2. Although it is expected that health-care workers will avoid international travel at this time, any health-care providers who travel outside of Canada are required to self-monitor and use appropriate PPE when providing care. If a health-care worker develops symptoms, they should self-isolate and contact their regional medical health officer.
3. If a health-care provider develops symptoms while providing care, they should immediately put on a mask and finish any essential services they are providing before self-isolating.

Please note: we are expecting some of these directives to continue to evolve and further information will be provided as that occurs. If you have any further questions please contact the number below.

Contact information for Physicians:

- A 24/7 Physician Call Centre has been established to support physicians dealing with the Covid-19 impact and response. The Call Centre can be reached through the following:

Number: 250-645-7897

Local: 507897

Toll Free: 1-833-645-7897

- The most current information and important links will also be posted on the physician website: <https://physicians.northernhealth.ca/>