



Memorandum

Ministry of Health
Office of the Assistant Deputy Minister
Mark Armitage
Health Sector Workforce and
Beneficiary Services Division

1179368

Date: October 21, 2020
To: Family Physicians and Nurse Practitioners
Re: Update on the fall and winter COVID-19 planning

I am writing to you today to update you on the fall and winter COVID-19 planning that is happening across the province, particularly related to seeking information about your interest and availability to participate in potential redeployments.

In September, the Ministry of Health released the [COVID-19 Health-Sector Plan for Fall/Winter 2020-21](#). The plan sets out the proposed actions for the health system including efforts to sustain the health system “restart” after services were paused in the spring and the management of the ongoing pandemic for the coming season.

As noted in the plan above, we are re-canvassing community family physicians and nurse practitioners¹ to determine availability for redeployment within the health system in support of the pandemic response and refreshing the roster that was formed in the spring.

Specifically, we are wanting to identify family physicians and nurse practitioners potentially available to:

- Provide shift coverage for hospitalists (who may be redeployed to critical care and respiratory/COVID-19 care) if there is a significant re-surge of COVID-19 admissions to a hospital using short-term alternative payment contracts to support non-fee for service work.
- Provide care for Long Term Care sites if needed.
- Provide primary care for patients with COVID-19 through designated Urgent and Primary Care Centres and clinics (respiratory care centres) as needed.

As noted in the spring, physicians and nurse practitioners will need to be privileged through the health authority in order to be eligible for redeployment. The College of Physicians and Surgeons and the BC College of Nurses and Midwives are supportive of this redeployment with the appropriate credentialing, and with practitioners working within their scope and standards of practice.

If you are available to support the fall and winter pandemic response in this way, please contact the health authority representative in your region directly, as follows:

Health Authority	Contact person	Email	Phone
VIHA	Dr. Ian Thompson	Ian.Thompson@viha.ca	250-370-8784 x18784
IHA	Louann Janicki- NPs	Louann.Janicki@interiorhealth.ca	250-868-5200 x12200
	Harsh Hundal- GPs	Harsh.Hundal@interiorhealth.ca	250-469-7070 x12245

¹ Note this refers to Nurse Practitioners on service contracts.



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VCH	Wendy Lo	wendy.lo@vch.ca	604-875-4864
NHA	Dr. Becky Temple	Becky.Temple@northernhealth.ca	250-262-5508
FHA	Tim O'Brien	Timothy.obrien@fraserhealth.ca	604-897-4043
PHSA	Fiona Karmali – NPs	Fiona.Karmali@phsa.ca	604-675-7436
	Andrea Karr – GPs	Andrea.Karr@phsa.ca	604-675-7438
Providence	Dr. Janet Kow	jkow@providencehealth.bc.ca	604-736-2715

We understand you may have additional questions as you consider your availability and what a redeployment might mean for you. The Ministry is currently working to draft a question and answer document to support providing further details and will work with the regional contacts indicated here to make that available.

Thank you for your efforts in supporting your colleagues, your community and hospital, the health authority, and most of all the patients, in this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,

Mark Armitage
Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Sector Workforce and Beneficiary Services Division
Ministry of Health