

For immediate release: May 15 2020

“Please don’t put off visiting your family doctor” – local family physician

New resources make it easier to connect for regular and ongoing patient care

Although we are in the midst of a pandemic, all residents are encouraged to continue with their regular health care, and book appointments with a family doctor or nurse practitioner. Care is still available at family medicine and walk-in clinics, with patients now being booked for by-phone, by-video or for in-person appointments where appropriate.

Patients can find out more about how virtual care is being used at their own family doctor’s office, and at local walk-in clinics, by visiting a new online virtual care directory called Pathways: www.pathwaysbcvirtualcare.ca.

Simply visit the website and type in your provider’s name to find up-to-date information such as any new hours, special instructions about by-phone or video appointments, and other resources.

Patients can also link to this directory by visiting the SOS Division of Family Practice website: <https://www.divisionsbc.ca/south-okanagan-similkameen>.

“We want to make it as easy as possible for patients to continue to book appointments, and get support and treatment for medical concerns – whether this has to do with COVID-like symptoms or not,” says Dr. Tim Phillips, SOS Division of Family Practice physician lead. “This pandemic is not going away tomorrow, so please don’t put off visiting your family doctor for regular care.”

“It’s very important to continue seeing your family doctor for ongoing care especially if you have long-term or chronic conditions,” agrees Dr. Kathleen Ross, President of Doctors of BC. “Family doctors know their patients best and understand their patients’ medical histories and needs.”

Walk-in clinics, such as Penticton’s Apple Plaza and Peach City Medical, are open and readily available to provide care for patients who are without a family doctor or nurse practitioner, or who need same day care. Visit the virtual care directory for more information about these locations.

Patients are also reminded that they can register on a primary care provider waitlist on the SOS Division of Family Practice Patient Attachment List: <https://www.divisionsbc.ca/south-okanagan-similkameen>. We continue to attach patients from this centralized wait list, and in just one year have connected 3,600 patients in the region to both new family physicians and nurse practitioners, and to those already practicing in the community.

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