

New Family Doctor Directory for Virtual Care

To help patients in our community, there's a new directory that tells you how to reach your family doctor for virtual care.

The Pathways BC Virtual Care Directory, www.pathwaysbcvirtualcare.ca, provides contact information for family doctors in communities across British Columbia. In our community of Powell River, including Tla'amin and the qathet region, most of our general practitioners and nurse practitioners are listed on the directory.

Not all patients are aware that they can have a visit with their family doctors virtually by video or phone. In response to the pandemic, family doctors in our community have transformed the way they deliver care.

Most of the doctors in our community are now set up to provide virtual care either by phone or video so that patients can connect with their doctors from the safety of their own homes for assessments and care such as reviewing and renewing medication prescriptions. Our doctors will safely arrange for any necessary in-person visits. It's important to call ahead before arriving, so the clinic can provide instructions for a safe visit. There's no charge for virtual care as it's covered by the BC Medical Services Plan (MSP) just like any other doctor visit.

The Pathways BC Virtual Directory will let patients know how their family doctors are providing virtual care as well as information on how to connect with their clinic to set up a telephone or video call. People without a family doctor can enter their community name into the Pathways Directory to find information on doctors in their community who are accepting new patients.

It's critically important that patients see their family doctors for ongoing care – especially people who have long-term or chronic conditions. Family doctors know their patients and understand their needs within the context of their medical histories. Medical evidence shows that patients connecting with their own family doctors leads to better health outcomes as well as increased patient satisfaction.

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