

## FW: Information on 2nd Floor COVID-19 Exposure

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From: Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX <Hannah.Lawrie@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Prevost, Jean-Marc GCPE:EX, Greer, Shannon GCPE:EX  
Sent: November 20, 2020 5:10:25 PM PST

Hannah  
Office 250 952-2475

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**From:** Twyford, Philip HLTH:EX <Philip.Twyford@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 20, 2020 4:41 PM  
**To:** hlth Executive Committee <hlthhexec@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>; Mayhew, Neilane MMHA:EX <Neilane.Mayhew@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Information on 2nd Floor COVID-19 Exposure  
**Importance:** High

Not for sharing or further dissemination

Good afternoon;

Today we notified employees on the 2nd floor of a Covid positive test from someone in our workplace. There are clear protocols in place, both from Public Health and PSA for employers, which we are diligently following, which is why the below email was sent to those employees.

We have been working with PSA and wanted you to be aware of the situation as you will likely get questions and will want to support concerned. Our BCGEU staff representatives and our lead shop steward are also aware so they are positioned to respond to questions. Given it is our first experience with this, there will undoubtedly be learning in this for all of us.

On Thursday evening we had a cleaning crew come in and do a thorough cleaning of the space which the individual used, including a fogging disinfectant, to minimize the risk of virus on workspaces and other common surfaces.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to Susan or myself if you have any questions.

Regards,

Philip

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**From:** Ranta, Michelle HLTH:EX <[Michelle.Ranta@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Michelle.Ranta@gov.bc.ca)> **On Behalf Of** Twyford, Philip HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** November 20, 2020 12:07 PM

**Cc:** Laanstra, Patti HLTH:EX <[Patti.Laanstra@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Patti.Laanstra@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** NOTIFICATION: 2nd Floor COVID-19 Exposure

Good afternoon,

We have been informed there was a positive COVID-19 test from someone who was at our workplace. Any areas they may have used have been cleaned and disinfected. The workplace is safe.

The COVID-19 protocols in our workplace are designed to prevent transmission of COVID-19 from a symptomatic person. Continue following them. Be aware of how you feel and contact your supervisor if you feel ill.

Unless you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, there is no need to consult your doctor or get a COVID-19 test.

Health authority contact tracers will contact anyone who may be at increased risk of transmission from this exposure. They will advise on the best course of action based upon individual risk of exposure. More information on contact tracing including helpful videos can be found on the BC Centre for Disease Control's website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation/contact-tracing>

Experience has shown us that our workplace protocols are effective at minimizing the risk of transmission at the work site. Please continue to follow our protocols, and if you have any questions about facilities please contact [HLTH.FacilitiesNotifications@gov.bc.ca](mailto:HLTH.FacilitiesNotifications@gov.bc.ca). If you have any questions about Covid protocols, please access the [COVID-19 Information for BC Public Service Employees](#) or connect with your supervisor.

Philip

Philip Twyford, CPA, MBA, C.Dir

Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Financial Officer  
Finance & Corporate Services Division  
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## 1515 Blanshard

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From: Twyford, Philip HLTH:EX <Philip.Twyford@gov.bc.ca>  
To: HLTH All MOH Employees <HLTHALLE@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 25, 2020 9:16:16 AM PST

Good morning;

As you may be aware, we received notice of a single confirmed case of COVID-19 late last week on the 2nd floor of 1515 Blanshard Street Victoria.

Immediate steps were taken, Facilities was advised and immediately implemented additional cleaning protocols at this location. Public health was notified of the positive result and spoke to the COVID-19 positive individual. Contact tracing was conducted to identify anyone who was in close contact with the employee in the workplace.

The process that public health follows is to identify any close contacts. If any staff are identified as close contacts, public health will contact them directly and provide advice on self isolation. In all cases, not hearing from a public health official means the risk of transmission is low and no further notifications or actions are required.

With that said, the reporting of a positive case in our workplace was a new experience for us. There are clear protocols in place from public health and also the public service as an employer, with a need to balance transparency while protecting the identity of the individual. Since this occurrence, we have heard from staff about the impact of notifying only staff located on the second floor.

This has been a huge learning for us. We appreciate your feedback and we will be taking a broader communication approach should this happen again.

In the meantime, our thoughts and well wishes are with our employee who tested positive. We recognize this has been a stressful time for them, in particular, and for many of you. I am sure you will join us in wishing them a good recovery.

Sincerely,

Susan and Philip

Philip Twyford, CPA, MBA, C.Dir  
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