

COVID Media Request: HCWs off sick data

Reporter

Laura Brougham, Editor
CHEK TV - Victoria
lbrougham@cheknews.ca
250-920-4616 c: 778-881-1443

Deadline ASAP

Request

Today Adrian Dix provided numbers of healthcare workers who were out sick between Jan. 3-9.

I was wondering if I could get those numbers broken down by health authority, specifically how many healthcare workers were out sick in Island Health?

Recommendation – *on background from Ministry (provide to all outlets)*

From Jan 3-9, 2022, 21,517 total health care workers were off sick due to COVID-19 or other illnesses. This includes:

- IH: 3,252
- VCH: 4,253
- VIHA: 3,674
- Providence: 1,054
- NH: 1,308
- FH: 4,976
- PHSA: 3,000

Background

Numbers provided by each HA.

COVID Media Request – definition of fully vaccinated

Reporter

Terri Theodore, Editor
Canadian Press (BC Bureau)
terri.theodore@thecanadianpress.com
604-692-1171

Deadline ASAP

Request

If someone working in long term care is considered "fully immunized" does that mean they have also received their booster dose?

Recommendation

A person who has received two vaccine doses is considered fully immunized two weeks after their second dose. All eligible people are strongly encouraged to get a booster shot for added protection, in addition to taking other precautions like wearing a mask and maintaining physical distancing where possible.

Background

Same response as previous requests (HUB)

COVID Media Request: Fake BC Vaccine Card scam

Reporters

Marcella Bernardo, Reporter
CBC - Kamloops
marcella.bernardo@cbc.ca
250-374-6802 c:s.22

Deadline ASAP

Request

In light of the story published yesterday by The Tyee, I'm hoping someone may be available to provide an update about safeguards in place to protect vulnerable people from getting exploited.

Does Health Minister Dix have anything to say to anti-vaxxers paying homeless people to get immunized using their health information and possibly ID?

This is in response to Vancouver Coastal Health confirming this has been happening in Vancouver.

For background, here's a link to the story posted by The Tyee yesterday.

<https://thetyee.ca/News/2022/01/12/Vaccine-Passport-Fraudsters-Targeting-DTES-Residents/>

Recommendation - *on background from Ministry:*

- The Ministry of Health is aware of instances of people attempting to obtain BC vaccine cards fraudulently by paying vulnerable people in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside to be vaccinated while falsely using their name and information.
- This behavior is deplorable and we're disappointed that anyone would take advantage of vulnerable people in this way in an attempt to circumvent the process for receiving a BC Vaccine Card.
- VCH has successfully put in measures to thwart these attempts, and to ensure anyone seeking a COVID-19 vaccine in the community is eligible and their identification is confirmed.
- Fraudulent vaccination records are being removed from the Provincial Immunization Registry and B.C. vaccine cards are being revoked.
- Future instances of fraud may be forwarded to local police authorities for follow-up.

Background

s.13

COVID Media Request: Masks and Children

Reporter

Graeme Wood, Reporter
Glacier FarmMedia Network

s.22

604-398-3560 c:s.22

Deadline ASAP

Request

Henry said in October that the masking of children will be reviewed. It was for fall session only. I gather a review has been done? Clearly the masks are not coming off.

Can I speak to whoever is helping assess the effectiveness of masking children especially those K-Gr.3. vs. the costs of doing so ie. speech and social development

Recommendation - *on background from Ministry*

With the current rise in cases we are seeing due to the Omicron variant, it is important that we remain diligent with health and safety measures to keep ourselves, our loved ones and our communities safe. To address this, the Province recently announced guidance for the K-12 system to reduce the risk of spread and transmission of COVID-19 in school settings which includes guidance on mask wearing.

Please see Dr. Henry's comments from the Jan 7 media conference:

"As I don't need to say today, SARS-CoV-2, or what causes COVID-19, continues to persist, to evolve and, of course, to surprise us in many ways. We cannot predict with certainty exactly what is going to happen, and we've seen that as things have evolved over this last two years. But we can, and we must, make educated or informed guesses or decisions based on the imperfect information we do have.

It's not mathematical certainty, but it is based on the best information that we have, best information from what we know from history around different coronaviruses and other infections, around immunology and around what we're seeing around the world. It is the best information we have, but it is by necessity imperfect. And in that context, that is where we are moving ahead now with how we are going to manage to get through this next wave, the omicron wave here, of the pandemic.

We have all seen that the virus continues to spread, that omicron is spreading very rapidly. And I said last time that where we had one or two generations of separation, now everybody, I believe, knows somebody or has somebody in their close social circle who's been affected by COVID-19.

That means this is going to be a challenging month, but it doesn't mean that we need to stop everything. We know that the basics of foundations of what we have in place, the things that we have learned to do and the measures that we have in place currently are going to help us get through this month."

And as Minister Whiteside said at the same conference:

“As we experience the omicron variant move through our communities, we're focused on protecting students and education workers. What we know is that since the pandemic began, we have seen that schools are a reflection of what happens in the community, and so we know that students and staff in our schools will be affected by this latest variant. That's why we want to ensure health and safety measures are in place so children and youth can learn in school to the best extent possible, and that has been the basis of the work this week by school districts, schools, the steering committee, and the ministry, and, of course, public health.”

B.C.'s public health team worked closely with the Ministry of Education to put measures in place to ensure students, teachers, school staff and parents stay safe through the school year, including the wearing of masks. This adds to other important layers of protection in our K-12 health and safety guidelines, like daily health checks, hand washing, staying home when sick and improved ventilation systems. In addition, the guidelines include strategies for schools to help create space between people through staggered recess, lunch breaks and class transition times, managing the flow of people in common areas, and using available space to spread people out.

All K to 12 students, staff and visitors are required to wear masks in all indoor areas, including:

- At desks
- On school buses

Exceptions to the mask policy include:

- A person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons
- A person unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person
- If the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it
- If the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask. For example:
 - Playing a wind instrument
 - Engaging in high-intensity physical activity
 - If a person is eating or drinking
 - If a person is behind a barrier
 - While providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (for example, a hearing impairment), where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important

School districts and individual schools have the responsibility to address mask exceptions for students. School staff will work with parents and families if a child is unable to wear a mask at school.

When working with students where seeing facial expressions and/or lip movement is important, and the service cannot be provided from behind a barrier, options include having the staff member wear a mask with a transparent section to enable visualization of the mouth. More on the Provincial COVID-19

Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 Settings here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidelines.pdf>

Background

Reviewed by EDUC and shared with their MO as a FYI

COVID Media Request: federal delays of rapid tests

Reporter

Shannon Waters, Reporter
BC Today
s.waters@britishcolumbiatoday.ca
236-882-7149

Deadline ASAP

Request

Alberta's health minister has reported delays in rapid test shipments from the federal government and said other provinces are experiencing them as well. Can you confirm whether BC is still waiting on rapid tests that were expected to arrive already?

If so, are the figures for what was expected vs what has arrived available? And what impact, if any, are any delays having on testing availability or use?

Recommendation - *on background from Ministry*

Timing and availability are dependent on the availability of rapid tests provided by the federal government. There is no confirmation from the federal government about when they will arrive. We are not experiencing delays as such as the situation is fluid and evolving – delivery schedules often fluctuate by a day or two, particularly when shipments are coming by land from Ontario. Between weather, available transport vendors and staff, coordinating with vendors etc. – we're all working to ensure delivery as quickly as possible.

Background

Based on preapproved and information from PHSA

COVID Media Request: LTC essential visitors

Reporter

Erin Conners, Other
Langara College
yvr.erin@gmail.com

Deadline ASAP

Request

I'm looking for numbers regarding how many long-term care residents have at least one essential visitor designated.

Recommendation - *on background from Ministry*

While the Ministry of Health does not have a consolidated list of how many people have an essential visitor assigned province wide available, we can provide some context on essential visitors for LTC residents.

Under current direction from the PHO (January 4, 2021), visitation in LTC is restricted to essential visits as well as a single designated social visitor for each resident. Single designated social visitors will be permitted to visit residents once rapid testing for visitors is in place at facilities.

Essential visits are necessarily linked with an **essential need** that could not be met in the absence of the essential visit..

An essential visit includes:

- Visits for compassionate reasons including critical illness, palliative care, hospice care, end of life and medical assistance in dying;
- Visits paramount to the resident's physical care and mental well-being (e.g., assistance with feeding, mobility, personal care or communication, assistance by designated representatives for persons with disabilities);
- Visits for supported decision-making;

A resident may have more than one person designated as an essential visitor. Essential visits shall be limited to one visitor per resident within the facility at a time (except in the case of palliative/end-of-life care).

To ensure fair and consistent decision making, the Ministry put in place in February 2021 a visitor appeals process. Visitors can request an immediate review of any decisions made related to visitor status and shall be provided the ability to speak with an administrator or administrator-on-call or request a further review of a decision through, or facilitated by, the health authority Patient Care Quality Office. Should a visitor remain unsatisfied with their visitor status, they can request a formal review of their concerns through the PHO.

Background:Program approved

COVID Media Request: Cases/hospitalizations per 100k

Reporter

Simon Little, Reporter

Global News

simon.little@globalnews.ca

604-422-6435 c: 604-710-0693

Deadline ASAP

Request

I'm hoping you can connect me with someone who can break down the formula used to arrive at the cases/hospitalizations per 100K listed in the daily Pandemic updates.

Recommendation – *Ministry of Health to send on background*

Statistics Canada has an external facing page that demonstrates the steps for calculating age-standardized rates, using an example for cancer deaths: <https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/dai/btd/asr>

We use the B.C. standard population in our calculations.

Background

Info provided by HSIAR.

COVID Media Request: Omicron and vaccination rates

Reporter

Vincent Brousseau-pouliot, Reporter

La Presse

vpouliot@lapresse.ca

514-285-7000 x 4829 c:s.22

Deadline Friday, January 14, 2022 4:30 PM

Request

1)Dr. Henry said in the briefing that the Omicron arrived later in BC and in Ontario/Québec. How later? A week? 10 days? 2 weeks?

2)Do you have a % of people in BC vaccinated (one dose, two doses, booster dose)?

Recommendation – Ministry of Health to send on background

B.C. identified its first case of the COVID-19 Omicron variant on Nov. 30, 2021.

As of Thursday, Jan. 13, 2022, 88.9% (4,433,294) of eligible people five and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 83.3% (4,150,713) have received their second dose.

In addition, 92.3% (4,277,097) of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 89.5% (4,150,305) received their second dose and 29.2% (1,352,152) have received a third dose.

Also, 92.6% (4,006,935) of all eligible adults in B.C. have received their first dose, 90.0% (3,893,147) received their second dose and 31.2% (1,351,017) have received a third dose.

Background

Info from transcript and COVID-19 IB.

COVID/VCH: COVID-19 numbers at LGH

Reporter

Jane Seyd

NS News

jseyd@nsnews.com

Deadline – Jan. 14

Request

As we're now being told by PHS and VCH that hospitalizations and ICU #s are more relevant barometers of the local COVID situation than cases (which I understand, as most aren't being reported in stats), can you give me the # of COVID patients in LGH and the number of COVID patients in ICU in LGH?

Can you tell me yes/no if the COVID ward (or one or both of the COVID wards) at LGH were dismantled? Because of lack of need for them/patients?

Of the people in LGH with COVID (but not in ICU) can you give me any idea how many came to hospital with another condition unrelated to COVID and were subsequently found to be positive vs how many were admitted because of COVID?

Recommendation – Vancouver Coastal to send:

- As of Jan. 14, 2022, there are 20 COVID-19 patients at Lions Gate Hospital (LGH), and two in the ICU.
- The COVID-19 unit at LGH remains operational.
- Much like other hospitals across the province, LGH continues to see a mix of patients who have COVID-19, including some seeking care specifically for their COVID-19 symptoms.

COVID/FH: COVID-19 vaccinations in children aged 5-11

Reporter

Nathan Griffiths

Vancouver Sun

Email: ngriffiths@postmedia.com

Deadline – 6pm on January 13, 2022

Request

Vancouver Sun contacted Public Affairs about vaccination rates in CHSAs around B.C. for kids aged 5-11. The reporter says that according to the latest CDC data there are several regions in Surrey where the per cent of kids that have received their first dose are among the lowest in the Lower Mainland. The reporter wants to know if we are seeing some of the same challenges in getting kids vaccinated now as the initial vaccine rollout faced last year. What are some of the issues that contribute to lower vaccination rates in these neighbourhoods. Lastly, what additional measures are being considered to boost vaccinations rates in these areas (vaccinations in schools).

Recommendation – Fraser Health to send:

- Since the start of B.C.'s COVID-19 Immunization Plan we have learned a lot about our processes and been able to implement additional supports that allow for us to vaccinate more people per day. Our immunization efforts have led us to increase the number of vaccine clinics across the Fraser Health region to 16 sites.
- We are pleased with the great response from our communities in getting children in the 5-11 years old age group vaccinated against COVID-19. We continue to see appointments being booked for children at all our COVID-19 vaccine clinics.
- We acknowledge the concerns many parents are feeling right now and while children are at a lower risk of severe disease from COVID-19, the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine has been proven to be effective in protecting children from severe illness, hospitalization or having long-term impacts. At this time, there have not been any reports of adverse events in the 5 to 11 year old age group in B.C.
- Our priority is ensuring children get vaccinated and have the best immunization experience possible. Many of our vaccine clinics hours of operation are extended to provide additional options for parents and guardians. Additionally, we have several child friendly vaccine clinics that offer a quieter space for children to get vaccinated.
- If a child or youth requires additional support or accommodations in getting their vaccine, please visit our [youth outreach process page](#) for more information, including how to request in-clinic appointment needs.
- We continue to monitor our vaccine uptake and are looking at all options to support increased uptake within our current vaccine delivery capacity. At this time we are not currently looking at in school COVID-19 vaccine clinics for children ages 5 to 11.
- We urge everyone who hasn't yet attended a clinic and is eligible to receive their vaccine to register now so they can then book an appointment as soon as possible. The approved vaccines

provide immunity against COVID-19 and are very effective at preventing hospitalization and death from COVID-19.

- Translated children and youth resources are available online at https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/coronavirus/translated-resources#.YeCxL_mlaUk
- For more information on child vaccinations please visit:
 - www.fraserhealth.ca/vaxchamp
 - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/children>
 - <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/vaccines-children>

COVID/FH: Expired COVID-19 rapid tests

Reporter

Ashley Moliere
CBC Vancouver
ashley.moliere@cbc.ca

Request

I'm working on a "news you can use" type file on rapid testing for our audience. We've seen a few posts online where people got rapid tests that were expired, but Health Canada changed it's shelf-life on some of the RAT tests late last year to expand them past the original date of expiry (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/medical-devices/authorized/expanded-use.html>). I'm just curious why expired tests are being handed out in the first place and if someone gets one, how do they know they can still use it? I can't seem to find anything on the FH website or the BCCDC website. I realize it's on the Health Canada website, but the average person might not know how to track down that information. I'm hoping to write this up for digital and do it for radio. Hoping someone might be free to clip quickly!

Recommendation – Fraser Health to send:

- Fraser Health ensures every rapid test kit distributed at our COVID-19 testing sites is safe for use, and effective in detecting COVID-19.
- When Fraser Health receives rapid tests kits from the Province, they include a revised expiration date label on each kit to reassure the public that the kit is safe, as determined by Health Canada, and not past expiration. On each kit, Fraser Health staff attach an instruction sheet to provide additional information about its contents.
- Sometimes when preparing kits for distribution, these kits are broken down and re-packaged for individual use. Fraser Health is aware of a limited number of kits that may not have had the revised expiration dates affixed to them, and apologizes for any confusion or concerns this may have caused.
- We can confirm that all rapid testing kits being distributed at our sites are now properly labelled, with the revised expiration dates, and are no longer re-packaged for individual use.

COVID/FH: COVID-19 outbreaks in correctional facilities

Reporter

Jeremy Hainsworth

Glacier Media

jhainsworth@glaciermedia.ca

Request

Can you tell what the COVID outbreak numbers are for the past three weeks at all provincial correction facilities reporting to Fraser Health, please. I'm hearing more frequently in courts that court cases cannot go ahead due to an infection. Apparently the need to clean hearing video booths in those facilities connected to the courts is now hampering case capacity in the courts. What are those facilities doing to prevent spread?

Recommendation

- Fraser Health has not declared any COVID-19 outbreaks in correctional facilities in our region.
- Fraser Health continues to support these institutions with guidance and management of COVID-19 cases and the prevention and reduction of possible COVID-19 transmission.

Background:

- Our Medical Health Officer is aware of two outbreaks declared at federal correctional facilities in our region. However, these outbreaks are being managed by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).

COVID/FH: Opening of new immunization centre in Tri-Cities

Reporter

Kyle Balzer

Tri-City News

kbalzer@tricitynews.com

Deadline – ASAP

Request

Fraser Health is partnering with the City of Coquitlam on a new immunization centre at Poirier Forum. The city announced this joint venture yesterday which led to an inquiry from the Tri-City News asking when the facility would be operational. The reporter was directed to contact Fraser Health for more information.

Recommendation – *Fraser Health to send:*

- Fraser Health is grateful for the partnership with the City of Coquitlam and its assistance in opening a COVID-19 immunization centre at Poirier Forum.
- We are currently preparing the site, which has been previously used as a COVID-19 testing and immunization centre, and plan to have it operational on January 25, 2022.
- Immunization appointments at this location are now available to be booked. For more information on how to book an appointment, please visit this [website](#).

COVID/IH: vaccine card fraud

Reporter

Marcella Bernardo
CBC Kamloops

Request:

I'm hoping someone may be available tomorrow or next week to talk about safeguards in place to protect vulnerable people from getting exploited by anti-vaxxers paying for others to get immunized using their health information and possibly ID.

Recommendation – Interior Health to send:

Interior Health does not currently have any reports of individuals taking advantage of vulnerable individuals to obtain vaccine cards.

HLTH/PHSA Media Request: Past Pilot Project Success

Reporter

Bethany Lindsay, Reporter
CBC – Vancouver
Bethany.Lindsay@cbc.ca
604-662-6419 c: 604-346-9211

Deadline ASAP

Request

Saw the release about the at-home cervical screening pilot for the Sunshine Coast and recalls a number of different pilots like this over the years across B.C. (Surrey in partnership with B.C. Women's and Pilot in the Northern Health region).

Reporter would like to know how successful past pilots have been and how many people have been involved.

Recommendation

BC Cancer/PHSA to provide the following statement:

- Dr. Gina Ogilvie's research team has been conducting self-collection projects in various regions around BC since early 2019. This includes research conducted in the Fraser Health Region with BC Women's and the Fraser Health Authority, and in the North with Carrier Sekani Family Services, First Nations Health Authority and Métis Nation British Columbia. Both these pilots are conducted in partnership with BC Cancer and the Provincial Laboratory system.
- These pilot projects are currently all ongoing but at various stages of progress. All projects involve self-collection for screening but have different approaches for engagement, kit distribution and collection location to allow for evaluation of different approaches in different settings.
- As part of the pilot, participants are offered the opportunity to complete evaluation surveys, helping feedback on all aspects of the project. No results are yet available as all projects are ongoing.

The at-home cervical screening pilot launched by BC Cancer last month will help BC Cancer fine-tune patient communications, provider engagement and internal processes to better serve BC Cancer patients.

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Sent: January 19, 2022 5:57 PM
To: Giles, Alison GCPE:EX; Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX
Cc: Thompson, Laurel HLTH:EX; Thouli, Sabreena GCPE:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: For Approval: NH for review and approvals - 20220120-DRAFT IB-NH Regional COVID Orders - rescinded (effective Jan 20) final.docx

Yes, all good from us. I have let the Minister know as well.

b

*Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
Mailing address:
PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9P4*

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em

Warning: This email is intended only for the use of the individual or organization to whom it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged or confidential. Any distribution, disclosure, copying, or other use by anyone else is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please telephone or e-mail the sender immediately and delete the message.

From: Giles, Alison GCPE:EX <Alison.Giles@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 19, 2022 5:04 PM
To: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Thompson, Laurel HLTH:EX <Laurel.Thompson@gov.bc.ca>; Thouli, Sabreena GCPE:EX <Sabreena.Thouli@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: For Approval: NH for review and approvals - 20220120-DRAFT IB-NH Regional COVID Orders - rescinded (effective Jan 20) final.docx

Hi Brian,

NH wants to send this out tomorrow repealing their orders and aligning with provincial.

Look okay from your perspective?

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: January 17, 2022 5:04 PM
To: Copeland, Kimberly CITZ:EX
Subject: FW: Approved media responses today
Attachments: Approved media requests Jan 14.docx

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: January 14, 2022 2:11 PM
To: GCPE Communications - COVID HLTH s.17
s.17 ; Kulmala, Peggy GCPE:EX <Peggy.Kulmala@gov.bc.ca>; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX
<Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Approved media responses today

Aileen Machell (she/her)
Communications Director
Health Communications
250-361-5381

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: January 17, 2022 5:04 PM
To: Copeland, Kimberly CITZ:EX
Subject: FW: Approved responses
Attachments: Outstanding media requests Jan 17.docx

Importance: High

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: January 17, 2022 4:49 PM
To: GCPE Communications - COVID HLTHs.17 ; GCPE Communications - Health
s.17 Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>; Kulmala, Peggy GCPE:EX
<Peggy.Kulmala@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Approved responses
Importance: High

Aileen Machell (she/her)
Communications Director
Health Communications
250-361-5381

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: January 17, 2022 4:49 PM
To: GCPE Communications - COVID HLTH; GCPE Communications - Health; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX; Kulmala, Peggy GCPE:EX
Subject: Approved responses
Attachments: Outstanding media requests Jan 17.docx
Importance: High

Aileen Machell (she/her)
Communications Director
Health Communications
250-361-5381

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX
Sent: January 17, 2022 4:48 PM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Cc: hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants
Subject: Re: For approval: outstanding media requests

All approved and ready to go.

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 3:54:46 PM
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX
Cc: hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants
Subject: For approval: outstanding media requests

Hello Minister,
Please see the attached media responses for your approval. Let me know if you would like to see changes.

Thanks,
Aileen

Media requests summary:

- NEW – COVID: Justine Hunter, Globe and Mail, Richard Zussman, Global – mandatory vac disclosure for school staff **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Xiao Xu, Globe and Mail – HCWs off sick data - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Amandalina Letterio, CFJC – HCWs off sick data - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Kier Junos, CITY TV – post-COVID-19 clinics - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Katie Hyslop, The Tyee – vacs data 16-21 - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: April Lawrence, CHEK + Cindy Harnett, Times Colonist – children isolation rules - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: multiple reporters – Paxlovid - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Tai Ali, BCIT journalism student – rapid tests stockpile – **Deadline**: ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Graeme Wood, Glacier Farm Media Network - Children and COVID - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID/VCH: Maria Rantanen, Richmond News – Richmond hospital numbers – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID/VCH: Jane Seyd, North Shore News – treatment of staff at testing sites – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID/VCH: Jane Seyd, North Shore News – LGH COVID – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID/VCH: Hina Alam, CP – staff shortages – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID/VCH: Vanessa Doban, CityNews – masking rules at LTC – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID/FH: Hina Alam, CP – staff shortages – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID/FH: Janis Cleugh – confirming Club Pilates is closed – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID/PHSA: Hina Alam, CP – staff shortages – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – HLTH: Aaron Hinks, Surrey Now – Peace Arch Maternity Diversions – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – HLTH/VCH: Amanda Wawryk, Daily Hive – Job Openings in VCH – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – HLTH: Kevin Charach, CHEK & Kylie Stanton, Global – Eagle Creek Clinic Closure – **Deadline** ASAP

Interview requests:

- **COVID: Marcella Bernardo, CBC Kamloops** - Interview Request: Minister Dix and Fake Vaccine Card Scam - **Deadline** ASAP
- **COVID: Khushpal Singh Gill, Punjabi Press Club of BC** - MD INTERVIEW re: COVID, Second hospital in Surrey etc. – **Deadline** ASAP
- **COVID: Kathryn Abbott, CFX 1970** - MD INTERVIEW REQ - Angus Reid poll - precautions won't prevent COVID – **Deadline** ASAP
- **COVID: Stephanie Ha, CTV National** - Question Period interview with Dr. Henry – **Deadline** ASAP
- **COVID: Rachel Adams, CBC circuit** - MD or DBH - COVID latest – **Deadline** ASAP
- **COVID: Allie Miller, CTV** - MD or DBH - COVID latest and booster campaign - **Deadline** ASAP
- **COVID: Guillaum Tzélépoglou, Radio-Canada** - MD or Dr. Lavoie - COVID and Francophonie update (en français) - **Deadline** ASAP

Aileen Machell (she/her)
Communications Director
Health Communications
250-361-5381

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: Tounsi, Marielle GCPE:EX
Sent: January 17, 2022 4:22 PM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Giles, Alison GCPE:EX; Wigmore, Matthew GCPE:EX; May, Stephen GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Get out to all reporters ASAP

I'm on it! Matthew is adding the PG to hub.

Marielle Tounsi | Senior Public Affairs Officer – COVID-19 Media Relations
Ministry of Health | Government Communications & Public Engagement
Cell: (778) 584-1255
Pronouns: she, her, hers

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations.

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 17, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Tounsi, Marielle GCPE:EX <Marielle.Tounsi@gov.bc.ca>; Giles, Alison GCPE:EX <Alison.Giles@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Get out to all reporters ASAP
Importance: High

The previous December 22nd orders had end dates of 12:01 am, Tuesday, January 18. Dr. Henry will be providing an update on the new orders on Tuesday, January 18 – this updated order was made to ensure the order remained in place until Dr. Henry spoke about them on Tuesday.

Please make sure Liza Yuza and all pres gallery get it. Minister will tweet it also.

Aileen Machell (she/her)
Communications Director
Health Communications
250-361-5381

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: January 17, 2022 4:21 PM
To: Tounsi, Marielle GCPE:EX; Giles, Alison GCPE:EX
Subject: Get out to all reporters ASAP

Importance: High

The previous December 22nd orders had end dates of 12:01 am, Tuesday, January 18. Dr. Henry will be providing an update on the new orders on Tuesday, January 18 – this updated order was made to ensure the order remained in place until Dr. Henry spoke about them on Tuesday.

Please make sure Liza Yuza and all pres gallery get it. Minister will tweet it also.

Aileen Machell (she/her)
Communications Director
Health Communications
250-361-5381

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Sent: January 17, 2022 4:01 PM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX
Subject: RE: Clarification for reporters on extension of orders

Yes, thanks. I do want to make it clear that I am addressing them tomorrow pm and it is to cover until then. I thought they expired at midnight tomorrow night. Sigh.

*Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
Mailing address:
PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9P4*

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em

Warning: This email is intended only for the use of the individual or organization to whom it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged or confidential. Any distribution, disclosure, copying, or other use by anyone else is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please telephone or e-mail the sender immediately and delete the message.

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 17, 2022 3:59 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Clarification for reporters on extension of orders

Hi Minister and Dr. Henry,

There are many reporters confused about the extension of the orders. I'm hoping we can send this to all asking to add additional clarity. Let me know if you have any concerns.

Thanks,

Aileen

Deadline ASAP

Request

I'm reaching out in regards to a document that has seemingly leaked online, in regards to the current health orders.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-order-gatherings-events.pdf>

It sort of suggests that the orders will be extended and even strengthened.

Recommendation

The previous December 22nd orders had end dates of 12:01 am, Tuesday, January 18. Dr. Henry will be providing an update on the new orders on Tuesday, January 18 – this updated order was put in place to ensure the order remained in place until Dr. Henry spoke about them on Tuesday.

Aileen Machell (she/her)
Communications Director
Health Communications
250-361-5381

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: January 17, 2022 3:59 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX
Subject: Clarification for reporters on extension of orders

Hi Minister and Dr. Henry,

There are many reporters confused about the extension of the orders. I'm hoping we can send this to all asking to add additional clarity. Let me know if you have any concerns.

Thanks,

Aileen

Deadline ASAP

Request

I'm reaching out in regards to a document that has seemingly leaked online, in regards to the current health orders.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-order-gatherings-events.pdf>

It sort of suggests that the orders will be extended and even strengthened.

Recommendation

The previous December 22nd orders had end dates of 12:01 am, Tuesday, January 18. Dr. Henry will be providing an update on the new orders on Tuesday, January 18 – this updated order was put in place to ensure the order remained in place until Dr. Henry spoke about them on Tuesday.

Aileen Machell (she/her)
Communications Director
Health Communications
250-361-5381

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: January 17, 2022 3:55 PM
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX
Cc: hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants
Subject: For approval: outstanding media requests
Attachments: Jan 17 - Interview Rollup.docx; Outstanding media requests Jan 17.docx

Hello Minister,
Please see the attached media responses for your approval. Let me know if you would like to see changes.

Thanks,
Aileen

Media requests summary:

- NEW – **COVID: Justine Hunter, Globe and Mail, Richard Zussman, Global** – mandatory vac disclosure for school staff **Deadline ASAP**
- NEW – **COVID: Xiao Xu, Globe and Mail** – HCWs off sick data - **Deadline ASAP**
- NEW – **COVID: Amandalina Letterio, CFJC** – HCWs off sick data - **Deadline ASAP**
- NEW – **COVID: Kier Junos, CITY TV** – post-COVID-19 clinics - **Deadline ASAP**
- NEW – **COVID: Katie Hyslop, The Tyee** – vacs data 16-21 - **Deadline ASAP**
- NEW – **COVID: April Lawrence, CHEK + Cindy Harnett, Times Colonist** – children isolation rules - **Deadline ASAP**
- NEW – **COVID: multiple reporters** – Paxlovid - **Deadline ASAP**
- NEW – **COVID: Tai Ali, BCIT journalism student** – rapid tests stockpile – **Deadline: ASAP**
- NEW – **COVID: Graeme Wood, Glacier Farm Media Network** - Children and COVID - **Deadline ASAP**
- NEW – **COVID/VCH: Maria Rantanen, Richmond News** – Richmond hospital numbers – **Deadline ASAP**
- NEW – **COVID/VCH: Jane Seyd, North Shore News** – treatment of staff at testing sites – **Deadline ASAP**
- NEW – **COVID/VCH: Jane Seyd, North Shore News** – LGH COVID – **Deadline ASAP**
- NEW – **COVID/VCH: Hina Alam, CP** – staff shortages – **Deadline ASAP**
- NEW – **COVID/VCH: Vanessa Doban, CityNews** – masking rules at LTC – **Deadline ASAP**
- NEW – **COVID/FH: Hina Alam, CP** – staff shortages – **Deadline ASAP**
- NEW – **COVID/FH: Janis Cleugh** – confirming Club Pilates is closed – **Deadline ASAP**
- NEW – **COVID/PHSA: Hina Alam, CP** – staff shortages – **Deadline ASAP**
- NEW – **HLTH: Aaron Hinks, Surrey Now** – Peace Arch Maternity Diversions – **Deadline ASAP**
- NEW – **HLTH/VCH: Amanda Wawryk, Daily Hive** – Job Openings in VCH – **Deadline ASAP**
- NEW – **HLTH: Kevin Charach, CHEK & Kylie Stanton, Global** – Eagle Creek Clinic Closure – **Deadline ASAP**

Interview requests:

- **COVID: Marcella Bernardo, CBC Kamloops** - Interview Request: Minister Dix and Fake Vaccine Card Scam - **Deadline ASAP**
- **COVID: Khushpal Singh Gill, Punjabi Press Club of BC** - MD INTERVIEW re: COVID, Second hospital in Surrey etc. – **Deadline ASAP**
- **COVID: Kathryn Abbott, CFX 1970** - MD INTERVIEW REQ - Angus Reid poll - precautions won't prevent COVID – **Deadline ASAP**

- **COVID: Stephanie Ha, CTV National** - Question Period interview with Dr. Henry – **Deadline** ASAP
- **COVID: Rachel Adams, CBC circuit** - MD or DBH - COVID latest – **Deadline** ASAP
- **COVID: Allie Miller, CTV** - MD or DBH - COVID latest and booster campaign - **Deadline** ASAP
- **COVID: Guillaum Tzélépoglou, Radio-Canada** - MD or Dr. Lavoie - COVID and Francophonie update (en français)
- **Deadline** ASAP

Aileen Machell (she/her)
Communications Director
Health Communications
250-361-5381

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: May, Stephen GCPE:EX
Sent: January 17, 2022 2:39 PM
To: Tounsi, Marielle GCPE:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Cc: Giles, Alison GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: COVID Media Request: Date removed from order

Does the following work?

Reporter

Amir Ali, Reporter
The Daily Hive - Vancouver
amir@dailyhive.com
236-982-0161

Deadline ASAP

Request

I'm reaching out in regards to a document that has seemingly leaked online, in regards to the current health orders.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-pho-order-gatherings-events.pdf>

It sort of suggests that the orders will be extended and even strengthened.

Recommendation

The previous December 22nd orders had end dates of 12:01 am, Tuesday, January 18. Dr. Henry will be providing an update on the new orders on Tuesday, January 18 – this updated order was put in place to ensure the order remained in place until Dr. Henry spoke about them on Tuesday.

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: January 17, 2022 1:49 PM
To: Kernohan, Marcus CITZ:EX; Hume, David CITZ:EX
Cc: Rosenberg, Kaitlyn CITZ:EX; Thaw, Sara GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: Draft alert for restrictions page

I think our bulletin today will say:

The PHO orders on gatherings and events and food and liquor serving premises have been extended. This includes restrictions on gyms and fitness centres. An update on restrictions will be provided during the January 18 PHO media briefing.

However, it's not quite approved yet.

From: Kernohan, Marcus CITZ:EX <Marcus.Kernohan@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 17, 2022 1:41 PM
To: Hume, David CITZ:EX <David.Hume@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Rosenberg, Kaitlyn CITZ:EX <Kaitlyn.Rosenburg@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>; Thaw, Sara GCPE:EX <Sara.Thaw@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Draft alert for restrictions page

The language in each of the new PHO orders is: "This Order does not have an expiration date."

I've revised the alert text to:

The PHO orders on gatherings and events and food and liquor serving premises have been extended.

Sara & Aileen: does this align with your messaging, or do you have a different form of words you'd like us to use?

Thanks all,
Marcus

From: "Hume, David CITZ:EX" <David.Hume@gov.bc.ca>
Date: Monday, January 17, 2022 at 1:17 PM
To: "Kernohan, Marcus CITZ:EX" <Marcus.Kernohan@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Kaitlyn Rosenberg <Kaitlyn.Rosenburg@gov.bc.ca>, "Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX" <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>, "Thaw, Sara GCPE:EX" <Sara.Thaw@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Draft alert for restrictions page

Hey there,

Thanks for this.^{s.13}

I haven't seen what Kaitlyn has so I don't know if Dr. Emerson has included dates, or if he is going with the 'until further notice language'.

Am adding Aileen and Sara here because I don't want us getting off side of the message that comes out at 3pm.

Thanks!

D.

From: Kernohan, Marcus CITZ:EX <Marcus.Kernohan@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: January 17, 2022 12:41 PM

To: Hume, David CITZ:EX <David.Hume@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Rosenberg, Kaitlyn CITZ:EX <Kaitlyn.Rosenburg@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Draft alert for restrictions page

Hi David,

We have a new alert for the restrictions page in QA, for your review. This update reflects the indefinite extension of the PHO orders due to expire at midnight — we've just published the updated orders.

QA link: <https://www2.qa.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions>

Screenshot:

[Home](#) > [COVID-19](#) > [Guidance and support](#) >

Provincial and regional restrictions

 [PHO orders on gatherings and events and food and liquor serving premises](#)

Thanks,

Marcus

--

Marcus Kernohan

A/Content Design Lead

Government Digital Experience Division (GDX) | Ministry of Citizens' Services

Phone: [250-213-5841](tel:250-213-5841) | Email: marcus.kernohan@gov.bc.ca

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: January 17, 2022 1:36 PM
To: Giles, Alison GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: question

Thank you!

From: Giles, Alison GCPE:EX <Alison.Giles@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 17, 2022 1:36 PM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: question

See below

From: Nicola Lambrechts <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>
Sent: January 17, 2022 1:29 PM
To: Giles, Alison GCPE:EX <Alison.Giles@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: question

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Alison - That's correct, but she's confirm specifics tomorrow morning.

Thank you,
Nicola

On Jan 17, 2022, at 12:48 PM, Giles, Alison GCPE:EX <Alison.Giles@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Nicola,

I hope you are well.

s.13

DBH said she's easing some restrictions for gyms – date TBD but likely Jan. 20th. This is just to allow for one-on-one personal training/consultations etc. There are no classes being allowed – correct?

Alison Giles
Manager
Government Communications and Public Engagement
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
Phone: 250 387-3967 | Cell: 250 507-3418
Alison.Giles@gov.bc.ca

Nicola Lambrechts
NLK Strategies
604.970.9113
nicola@nlkstrategies.ca

www.nlkstrategies.ca

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: January 17, 2022 12:34 PM
To: Cen, Calvin GCPE:EX
Subject: For today's IB

Hi Calvin,

Can you add a line to today's IB that says the current orders on Gathering and Events and Food and Liquor Establishments have been extended, with an update to be provided by the Provincial Health Officer tomorrow at 1:30pm. This includes restrictions on gyms and fitness centres.

Thanks!

Aileen Machell (she/her)
Communications Director
Health Communications
250-361-5381

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX
Sent: January 17, 2022 12:21 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Cc: Giles, Alison GCPE:EX; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN
Subject: Order Expiry Date Removed

Hi Aileen.

Per the Orders I just sent for posting, they have been revised to remove the expiry date. This change was made as the current orders were scheduled to expiry at midnight tonight. As Dr. Henry will be making announcements about the future of these orders tomorrow, these changes will bridge until the announcements are made and we revise the orders based on the announcement.

Thanks.

Brian

Dr. Brian P. Emerson, Deputy Provincial Health Officer
BC Ministry of Health, PO Box 9648 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9P1
T 250.952.1701 C s.17 F. 250.952. 1713 brian.emerson@gov.bc.ca

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 17, 2022 11:51 AM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Giles, Alison GCPE:EX <Alison.Giles@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>; Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: IB - rapid tests to be distributed to school districts

I just had one suggestion to clarify.

On another issue, we need to send out a statement around gyms/fitness and the other orders on events and gatherings that says the current order remains in place until the update to be provided by DBH at 13:30 tomorrow. This is because the orders unfortunately expire at midnight tonight. An unfortunate oversight; I thought it was midnight tomorrow.

B

*Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
Mailing address:
PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9P4*

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em

Warning: This email is intended only for the use of the individual or organization to whom it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged or confidential. Any distribution, disclosure, copying, or other use by anyone else is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please telephone or e-mail the sender immediately and delete the message.

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: January 17, 2022 10:15 AM

To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Giles, Alison GCPE:EX <Alison.Giles@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>

Subject: IB - rapid tests to be distributed to school districts

Hi Dr. Henry,

Education is looking to put the attached IB out. Let me know if you have any concerns.

Thanks!

Aileen

Aileen Machell (she/her)
Communications Director
Health Communications
250-361-5381

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Sent: January 17, 2022 11:51 AM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Cc: Giles, Alison GCPE:EX; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN; Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX
Subject: RE: IB - rapid tests to be distributed to school districts
Attachments: IB Rapid Test Kits to be distributed to school districts - January 17 930am EL JM MO DRAFTbh.docx

I just had one suggestion to clarify.

On another issue, we need to send out a statement around gyms/fitness and the other orders on events and gatherings that says the current order remains in place until the update to be provided by DBH at 13:30 tomorrow. This is because the orders unfortunately expire at midnight tonight. An unfortunate oversight; I thought it was midnight tomorrow.

B

*Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
Mailing address:
PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9P4*

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em

Warning: This email is intended only for the use of the individual or organization to whom it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged or confidential. Any distribution, disclosure, copying, or other use by anyone else is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please telephone or e-mail the sender immediately and delete the message.

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 17, 2022 10:15 AM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Giles, Alison GCPE:EX <Alison.Giles@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>
Subject: IB - rapid tests to be distributed to school districts

Hi Dr. Henry,
Education is looking to put the attached IB out. Let me know if you have any concerns.

Thanks!
Aileen

Aileen Machell (she/her)
Communications Director
Health Communications
250-361-5381

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: January 16, 2022 1:43 PM
To: Ashley Burr; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: CityTV statement request Sunday

Hi again Ashley.

Here's a statement from the Ministry:

Gyms and fitness centres are included in the definition of "inside event" in the provincial health officer's order. Inside events include a gathering of participants for the purpose of adult exercise or fitness activity or class. During this higher risk period, gyms and fitness centres have been ordered to close to help prevent people from getting sick from COVID-19, including the Omicron variant, and to protect our health care system. COVID-19, including the Omicron variant, is spread by the respiratory droplets an infected person produces when they breathe, cough, or talk. Fitness activities generate these aerosols and can lead to rapid transmission. Gyms and fitness centres can continue to operate virtually if they choose.

The Provincial Health Officer (PHO) regularly reviews all orders and restrictions based on the data and evidence. When restrictions are set to be lifted or adjusted, this will be widely communicated. The PHO and Ministry of Health meet regularly with the fitness industry and have since the beginning of the pandemic, including weekly for the past month.

We know that exercise is important for physical and mental well-being, and since the start of the pandemic have encouraged people to stay active in a safe manner, for example exercising outdoors or away from others. The gym community has been doing its part to keep clients and the public safe. We expect all businesses to follow the provincial health orders.

Best wishes,
Aileen

Aileen Machell
Communications Director, Health Communications
250-361-5381

On Jan 16, 2022, at 12:16 PM, Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Ashley,

I'll work on this and get back to you.

Thanks,
Aileen

From: Ashley Burr <Ashley.Burr@rci.rogers.com>
Sent: January 16, 2022 12:00 PM
To: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: CityTV statement request Sunday

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

From: Ashley Burr
Sent: January 16, 2022 10:57 AM
To: Tounsi, Marielle GCPE:EX <Marielle.Tounsi@gov.bc.ca>; Alison.Giles@gov.bc.ca; Matthew.Wigmore@gov.bc.ca; May, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.May@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: CityTV statement request Sunday

Good morning,

Many gym owners are concerned about the lack of communication from the province as to whether they will be able to reopen anytime soon.

We are wondering whether the province has been in contact with the fitness community, giving them updates, and when the time comes that gyms will reopen, whether the province will be giving gym owners ample notice?

My deadline is 4:00pm Sunday.

Best,

Ashley

Ashley Burr
Video Journalist

CityNews
180 West 2nd Avenue, Vancouver

ashley.burr@rci.rogers.com
m 778-986-4690



This communication is confidential. We only send and receive email on the basis of the terms set out at www.rogers.com/web/content/emailnotice

Ce message est confidentiel. Notre transmission et réception de courriels se fait strictement suivant les modalités énoncées dans l'avis publié à www.rogers.com/aviscourriel

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX
Sent: January 16, 2022 1:40 PM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: For approval: media request regarding communication to gym industry

This looks fine

On Jan 16, 2022, at 12:26 PM, Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Good afternoon Minister,
Please see the proposed response for your approval. All of it was previously approved last week, except the added line about MoH and PHO meeting regularly with the fitness industry since the beginning of the pandemic. Dr. Henry has also reviewed.

Thanks,
Aileen

COVID-19 Request: Communication to gyms

Reporter
Ashley Burr
CityTV

Deadline 4pm Sunday

Topic:

Many gym owners are concerned about the lack of communication from the province as to whether they will be able to reopen anytime soon.

We are wondering whether the province has been in contact with the fitness community, giving them updates, and when the time comes that gyms will reopen, whether the province will be giving gym owners ample notice?

My deadline is 4:00pm Sunday.

Proposed response:

Gyms and fitness centres are included in the definition of “inside event” in the provincial health officer’s order. Inside events include a gathering of participants for the purpose of adult exercise or fitness activity or class. During this higher risk period, gyms and fitness centres have been ordered to close to help prevent people from getting sick from COVID-19, including the Omicron variant, and to protect our health care system. COVID-19, including the Omicron variant, is spread by the respiratory droplets an infected person produces when they breathe, cough, or talk. Fitness activities generate these aerosols and can lead to rapid transmission. Gyms and fitness centres can continue to operate virtually if they choose.

The Provincial Health Officer (PHO) regularly reviews all orders and restrictions based on the data and evidence. When restrictions are set to be lifted or adjusted, this will be widely communicated. The PHO and Ministry of Health meet regularly with the fitness industry and have since the beginning of the pandemic, including weekly for the past month.

We know that exercise is important for physical and mental well-being, and since the start of the pandemic have encouraged people to stay active in a safe manner, for example exercising outdoors or away from others. The gym community has been doing its part to keep clients and the public safe. We expect all businesses to follow the provincial health orders.

Aileen Machell (she/her)
Communications Director
Health Communications
250-361-5381

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: January 16, 2022 12:55 PM
To: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX
Subject: Re: CityTV statement request Sunday

Thanks. I have a response going through approvals. I'll let you know when it's final.

Aileen Machell
Communications Director, Health Communications
250-361-5381

On Jan 16, 2022, at 12:55 PM, Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Aileen...I've hubbed this.

Rob

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 16, 2022 12:17 PM
To: 'Ashley Burr' <Ashley.Burr@rci.rogers.com>; Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: CityTV statement request Sunday

Hi Ashley,
I'll work on this and get back to you.

Thanks,
Aileen

From: Ashley Burr <Ashley.Burr@rci.rogers.com>
Sent: January 16, 2022 12:00 PM
To: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: CityTV statement request Sunday

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

From: Ashley Burr
Sent: January 16, 2022 10:57 AM
To: Tounsi, Marielle GCPE:EX <Marielle.Tounsi@gov.bc.ca>; Alison.Giles@gov.bc.ca; Matthew.Wigmore@gov.bc.ca; May, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.May@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: CityTV statement request Sunday

Good morning,

Many gym owners are concerned about the lack of communication from the province as to whether they will be able to reopen anytime soon.

We are wondering whether the province has been in contact with the fitness community, giving them updates, and when the time comes that gyms will reopen, whether the province will be giving gym owners ample notice?

My deadline is 4:00pm Sunday.

Best,

Ashley

Ashley Burr
Video Journalist

CityNews
180 West 2nd Avenue, Vancouver

ashley.burr@rci.rogers.com

m 778-986-4690



This communication is confidential. We only send and receive email on the basis of the terms set out at www.rogers.com/web/content/emailnotice

Ce message est confidentiel. Notre transmission et réception de courriels se fait strictement suivant les modalités énoncées dans l'avis publié à www.rogers.com/aviscourriel

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: January 16, 2022 12:21 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Subject: RE: For approval: CityTV statement request Sunday

Yes, I would like to add this line, let me know if that works:

The PHO and Ministry of Health meet regularly with the fitness industry and have since the beginning of the pandemic, including weekly for the past month.

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 16, 2022 12:19 PM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: For approval: CityTV statement request Sunday

That is fine. I am meeting with the fitness reps tomorrow morning and will be providing guidance to them. I have also made it quite clear that **all** restrictions will not be lifted on the 18th so they should not be planning to be back at full activity n the 18th. We meet regularly with the fitness industry and have since the beginning of the pandemic including weekly for the past month.

Don't know if we want to add any of that or just keep it general?

b

*Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
Mailing address:
PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9P4*

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em

Warning: This email is intended only for the use of the individual or organization to whom it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged or confidential. Any distribution, disclosure, copying, or other use by anyone else is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please telephone or e-mail the sender immediately and delete the message.

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: January 16, 2022 12:15 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: For approval: CityTV statement request Sunday

Hi Dr. Henry,
We received the media request below. Let me know if the following response works:

COVID-19 Request: Communication to gyms

Reporter
Ashley Burr
CityTV

Deadline 4pm Sunday

Topic:

Many gym owners are concerned about the lack of communication from the province as to whether they will be able to reopen anytime soon.

We are wondering whether the province has been in contact with the fitness community, giving them updates, and when the time comes that gyms will reopen, whether the province will be giving gym owners ample notice?

My deadline is 4:00pm Sunday.

Proposed response:

Gyms and fitness centres are included in the definition of “inside event” in the provincial health officer’s order. Inside events include a gathering of participants for the purpose of adult exercise or fitness activity or class. During this higher risk period, gyms and fitness centres have been ordered to close to help prevent people from getting sick from COVID-19, including the Omicron variant, and to protect our health care system. COVID-19, including the Omicron variant, is spread by the respiratory droplets an infected person produces when they breathe, cough, or talk. Fitness activities generate these aerosols and can lead to rapid transmission. Gyms and fitness centres can continue to operate virtually if they choose.

The Provincial Health Officer regularly reviews all orders and restrictions based on the data and evidence. When restrictions are set to be lifted or adjusted, this will be widely communicated.

We know that exercise is important for physical and mental well-being, and since the start of the pandemic have encouraged people to stay active in a safe manner, for example exercising outdoors or away from others. The gym community has been doing its part to keep clients and the public safe. We expect all businesses to follow the provincial health orders.

From: Ashley Burr <Ashley.Burr@rci.rogers.com>

Sent: January 16, 2022 12:00 PM

To: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: CityTV statement request Sunday

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

From: Ashley Burr

Sent: January 16, 2022 10:57 AM

To: Tounsi, Marielle GCPE:EX <Marielle.Tounsi@gov.bc.ca>; Alison.Giles@gov.bc.ca; Matthew.Wigmore@gov.bc.ca;

May, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.May@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: CityTV statement request Sunday

Good morning,

Many gym owners are concerned about the lack of communication from the province as to whether they will be able to reopen anytime soon.

We are wondering whether the province has been in contact with the fitness community, giving them updates, and when the time comes that gyms will reopen, whether the province will be giving gym owners ample notice?

My deadline is 4:00pm Sunday.

Best,

Ashley

Ashley Burr
Video Journalist

CityNews
180 West 2nd Avenue, Vancouver

ashley.burr@rci.rogers.com

m 778-986-4690



This communication is confidential. We only send and receive email on the basis of the terms set out at www.rogers.com/web/content/emailnotice

Ce message est confidentiel. Notre transmission et réception de courriels se fait strictement suivant les modalités énoncées dans l'avis publié à www.rogers.com/aviscourriel

Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: January 16, 2022 12:15 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Subject: For approval: CityTV statement request Sunday

Hi Dr. Henry,
We received the media request below. Let me know if the following response works:

COVID-19 Request: Communication to gyms

Reporter
Ashley Burr
CityTV

Deadline 4pm Sunday

Topic:
Many gym owners are concerned about the lack of communication from the province as to whether they will be able to reopen anytime soon.

We are wondering whether the province has been in contact with the fitness community, giving them updates, and when the time comes that gyms will reopen, whether the province will be giving gym owners ample notice?

My deadline is 4:00pm Sunday.

Proposed response:

Gyms and fitness centres are included in the definition of “inside event” in the provincial health officer’s order. Inside events include a gathering of participants for the purpose of adult exercise or fitness activity or class. During this higher risk period, gyms and fitness centres have been ordered to close to help prevent people from getting sick from COVID-19, including the Omicron variant, and to protect our health care system. COVID-19, including the Omicron variant, is spread by the respiratory droplets an infected person produces when they breathe, cough, or talk. Fitness activities generate these aerosols and can lead to rapid transmission. Gyms and fitness centres can continue to operate virtually if they choose.

The Provincial Health Officer regularly reviews all orders and restrictions based on the data and evidence. When restrictions are set to be lifted or adjusted, this will be widely communicated.

We know that exercise is important for physical and mental well-being, and since the start of the pandemic have encouraged people to stay active in a safe manner, for example exercising outdoors or away from others. The gym community has been doing its part to keep clients and the public safe. We expect all businesses to follow the provincial health orders.

From: Ashley Burr <Ashley.Burr@rci.rogers.com>
Sent: January 16, 2022 12:00 PM
To: Duffus, Robert GCPE:EX <Robert.Duffus@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: CityTV statement request Sunday

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

From: Ashley Burr
Sent: January 16, 2022 10:57 AM
To: Tounsi, Marielle GCPE:EX <Marielle.Tounsi@gov.bc.ca>; Alison.Giles@gov.bc.ca; Matthew.Wigmore@gov.bc.ca; May, Stephen GCPE:EX <Stephen.May@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: CityTV statement request Sunday

Good morning,

Many gym owners are concerned about the lack of communication from the province as to whether they will be able to reopen anytime soon.

We are wondering whether the province has been in contact with the fitness community, giving them updates, and when the time comes that gyms will reopen, whether the province will be giving gym owners ample notice?

My deadline is 4:00pm Sunday.

Best,

Ashley

Ashley Burr
Video Journalist

CityNews
180 West 2nd Avenue, Vancouver

ashley.burr@rci.rogers.com

m 778-986-4690



This communication is confidential. We only send and receive email on the basis of the terms set out at www.rogers.com/web/content/emailnotice

Ce message est confidentiel. Notre transmission et réception de courriels se fait strictement suivant les modalités énoncées dans l'avis publié à www.rogers.com/aviscourriel

Page 53 of 61

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

COVID Media Request: Interview Request: Minister Dix and Fake Vaccine Card Scam

Reporter

Marcella Bernardo, Reporter
CBC - Kamloops
marcella.bernardo@cbc.ca
250-374-6802 c:s.22

Deadline ASAP

Request

Please let me know if Minister Dix is available to comment about this.
I was hoping he might be available before 4pm today.
It would be pre-taped and I could pull clips.

(Reporter advised likely not able to schedule for today)

Recommendation

Background

This is a follow-up to a media request from January 14, 2022.

REQUEST:

In light of the story published yesterday by The Tyee, I'm hoping someone may be available to provide an update about safeguards in place to protect vulnerable people from getting exploited.

Does Health Minister Dix have anything to say to anti-vaxxers paying homeless people to get immunized using their health information and possibly ID?

This is in response to Vancouver Coastal Health confirming this has been happening in Vancouver.

For background, here's a link to the story posted by The Tyee yesterday.

<https://thetyee.ca/News/2022/01/12/Vaccine-Passport-Fraudsters-Targeting-DTES-Residents/>

RESPONSE:

Provided Background

- *The Ministry of Health is aware of instances of people attempting to obtain BC vaccine cards fraudulently by paying vulnerable people in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside to be vaccinated while falsely using their name and information.*
- *This behavior is deplorable and we're disappointed that anyone would take advantage of vulnerable people in this way in an attempt to circumvent the process for receiving a BC Vaccine Card.*
- *VCH has successfully put in measures to thwart these attempts, and to ensure anyone seeking a COVID-19 vaccine in the community is eligible and their identification is confirmed.*

- *Fraudulent vaccination records are being removed from the Provincial Immunization Registry and B.C. vaccine cards are being revoked.*
- *Future instances of fraud may be forwarded to local police authorities for follow-up.*

COVID Media Request: INTERVIEW REQ - Covid-19, Second hospital in Surrey etc.

Reporter

Khushpal Singh Gill, Other
Punjabi Press Club of BC
punjabipressclubbc@gmail.com
778-707-4100

Deadline Wednesday, January 19, 2022 2:00 PM

Request

Please arrange our meeting with the health minister any Tuesday or Wednesday between 11:30 to 2:00 PM via zoom?

Issues on hand are like; Covid, Second hospital in Surrey etc.

COVID Media Request: Interview Request: MD INTERVIEW REQ - Angus Reid poll

Reporter

Kathryn Abbott, Reporter
CFAX 1070
kathryn.abbott@bellmedia.ca
250-920-4616

Deadline ASAP

Request

Al Ferraby was curious if we could put in a request for Minister Dix for tomorrow morning at 8:50AM

To discuss the topic below:

A new poll from Angus Reid shows most Canadians say they'll be infected by COVID regardless of the precautions they take, with two in five saying they would end all restrictions. Plus the latest COVID numbers. Are we peaking next week?

You can reach me here or by phone at 250 920 4616

COVID Media Request: Interview Request - kids vaccinations, in-person learning, moving forward

Reporter

Stephanie Ha, Producer
CTV - National (Toronto)
Stephanie.Ha@bellmedia.ca

Deadline ASAP

Request

CTV Question Period would like to request an interview with Dr. Bonnie Henry this week. We'd be looking to discuss slower push we're seeing when it comes to vaccinating kids, how the return to in-person learning is going and how Omicron could change the way we approach the pandemic moving forward.

We'd be looking to pre-tape a segment this Friday (Jan. 14) anytime between 10AM-4PM ET. She would be speaking with our host Evan Solomon.

COVID Media Request: MD or DBH Interview request – CBC Morning Circuit – COVID latest

Reporter

Rachel Adams, Reporter
CBC - Vancouver
rachel.adams@cbc.ca
604-404-4249

Deadline ASAP

Request

Topics will include vaccine mandates in schools and long-term care home rules.

Looking for potential to interview either DBH or MD for any of the following slots:

Friday:

4:05 PM - All Points West
4:35: PM - Radio West
5:05: PM - On The Coast

Monday:

6:37 AM - Early Edition with Stephen Quinn. Studio number: 604-669-3733 or 604-662-7157
6:50 AM - On the Island with Gregor Craigie. Studio number: 250-360-2227
7:00 AM - Daybreak Kamloops with Shelley Joyce. Studio number: 250 374 6837
7:33 AM - Daybreak North with Carolina de Ryk. Studio number: 250-624-8182
810 - 7:20 AM - Daybreak South with Chris Walker. Studio number: 250-861-3781 OR 250-861-3272

Recommendation - *schedule interview with Minister Dix or offer to Dr. Henry*

COVID Media Request: Interview Request – COVID latest and booster campaign

Reporter

Allie Miller, Producer
CTV - Vancouver
allie.miller@bellmedia.ca

Deadline ASAP

Request

My name is Allie Miller, I am an Associate Producer with CTV Morning Live in Vancouver.

We would like to invite a health representative on the show to discuss the expedited COVID-19 booster campaign.

The interview would be a 4-5 minute conversation with our anchors, Jason and Keri. We could accommodate a zoom interview Friday during the 7 or 8 o'clock hour? Please let me know if this is possible or if you have any questions.

Recommendation

Interview Request - Minister Dix - COVID/Francophonie (en français)

Reporter

Guillaum Tzélépoglou, Producer
CBC - Radio Canada (French Services)
guillaum.tzelepoglou@radio-canada.ca
604-340-2730

Deadline ASAP

Request

I am contacting you because it's been more than 3 months since we had the pleasure of having Minister Dix on air in French on our show Phare Ouest at Radio-Canada.

We asked him for an interview in December to give his wishes to the francophone community, as minister of francophone affairs, but I got no answer despite multiple tries.

I would like to know if Minister Dix could talk to us sometime next week between 6.15am and 8.15 am to discuss the pandemic and the francophonie in 2022. The interview will be with host Marie Villeneuve.

Let me know when he might be available, you can contact me at 604-340-2730 or by email at this address.

Recommendation - *Caro on our team can help translate KMs on any topic if you want to do this interview, and we could try for a day you have time to prepare. If Minister is unavailable we could offer the interview to Dr. Lavoie.*