

Covid-19 Deputy Ministers' Committee

Tuesday – March 10, 2020 at 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

In person: s.15

Dial In: s.15; s.17

Toll-Free: s.15; s.17

AGENDA

	Topic	Lead or Facilitator	Materials	Attach #
1.	Covid-19 Technical Briefing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Pandemic Provincial Coordination Plan • Activation of PECC and HECC • Situation Report Mock up 	L. Halls S. Brown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Pandemic Provincial Coordination Plan • Covid-19 Response Structure • Fully Activated PEMS • Situation Report Mock up (Walk in) 	2 3 4 5
2.	Communications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Information Centre (JIC) • Call centre for non-health inquiries 	L. Halls D. Evans J. Kott	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Information Centre (JIC) Overview 	6
3.	Minimizing Risk of Community Spread <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Coordinated Response Actions • Canvas of Sector Issues and Needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identification of short, medium longer term issues/policies by sector • Development of Dashboard to Monitor Progress 	All	COVID-19 Response Action Checklist	7
4.	Direction to Advanced Planning Unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenario Planning • Request from Federal Government re: emergency funds to support impacted individuals • Supply Chain Management 	L. Halls J. Kott		

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	Topic	Lead or Facilitator	Materials	Attach #
5.	Public Service Policies Are COVID-specific compensation changes to encourage sick employees to remain at home required? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes Political staff as well as Public Service • Identify any issues • Discussion with Unions • DBN for Minister 	O. Yuma Morisho		
6.	Measures to address impacts of quarantine or self-isolation of vulnerable workers	T. Hughes, K. Krishna, B. Plecas		
7.	Policy Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provincial position on cruise • Voluntary/mandatory prohibition on large gatherings 	L. Halls S. Brown		
8.	Ministry Business Continuity Plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pandemic risk lens to be applied to catastrophic response actions (CRA) • Analysis of CRAs / prioritization 	L. Halls		
9.	First Nations	D. Caul		
10.	Monitoring Economic Effects	F. Mihlar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Impacts of Covid-19 • Cascading Economic Impacts on BC: Global Coronavirus Outbreak 	<p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <p style="text-align: center;">9</p>
11.	Priorities to Lobby Feds at FPT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment insurance • Degree of monitoring individuals entering from heavily affected regions • Ports • Vacation at home tourism campaign • Supply chain management 	B. Plecas		

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Topic		Lead or Facilitator	Materials	Attach #
12.	Potential phone based MOH App	S. Brown		
13.	Covid-19 Cabinet Committee Agenda and Material <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of decisions for March 11th meeting 	D. Wright	Draft Agenda for Ministers Covid-19	10
14.	Wrap up and Next Steps	L. Halls		

***Attachment 11: Background – Overview of Emergency Powers – How PHA and EPA work together**

Covid-19 Deputy Ministers' Committee

MEMBERS

Co-Chairs:

Stephen Brown	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Lori Halls	Deputy Minister, Emergency Management BC, Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General

Members:

Wes Shoemaker	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture
Allison Bond	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children & Family Development
Jill Kot	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Citizens' Services
Fazil Mihlar	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology
Kaye Krishna	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing
David Galbraith	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction
Shauna Brouwer	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture
Grant Main	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
Scott MacDonald	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education
Shannon Baskerville	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
Lori Wanamaker	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance
Trevor Hughes	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labour
Doug Caul	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
Mark Sieben	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General
Donna Evans	Deputy Minister, Government Communications & Public Engagement
Okenge Yuma Morisho	Deputy Minister, Public Service Agency
Bobbi Plecas	Deputy Minister, Intergovernmental Relations
Christine Kennedy	Associate Deputy Minister, Office of the Premier
Eric Kristianson	Assistant Deputy Minister, Office of the Premier

Secretariat:

Jennifer Walker	A/Director, Ministry of Health
Ken Craig	Director, Emergency Management BC



Province of British Columbia

British Columbia Pandemic Provincial Coordination Plan

Refreshed February 2020



Ministry of Health
Deputy Minister

March 5, 2020

Date



Emergency Management BC
Deputy Minister

March 5, 2020

Date

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BC Pandemic Provincial Coordination Plan

Section 1: Introduction

Purpose

The British Columbia Pandemic Provincial Coordination Plan describes the provincial government's strategy for cross-ministry coordination, internal and external communications and provincial government business continuity in response to public health events that are pandemic in nature. This plan fosters cooperation and collaboration among provincial government ministries involved in the active management of the consequences and policy needs associated with public health pandemics. This plan is designed to complement the *Federal/Provincial/Territorial Public Health Response Plan for Biological Events*.

This plan is not intended to replace existing Ministry plans, but rather is intended to complement and when applicable, be used in conjunction with the existing suite of plans and protocols currently in use by each Ministry by providing an overarching governance framework that can be used to respond to a spectrum of public health events caused by biological agents.

Background

Biological agents are the cause of pandemics and include bacteria, viruses, fungi, other microorganisms and their associated toxins. They can adversely affect human health in a variety of ways, ranging from relatively mild allergic reactions to serious medical conditions and even death. These organisms are widespread in the natural environment; they are found in water, soil, plants, and animals.

Pandemics can be naturally occurring disease outbreaks that occur at local, provincial, national and international levels. They can be the result of accidental exposure to pathogens (disease causing agent) in the context of biomedical diagnostics and research, significant shortages of drugs and biologics, or intentional use of pathogens or biotoxin (poisonous substances produced by a living organism) against humans, plants, or animals for harmful purposes. The scope of this plan is intended for those situations where the principal issue is human health and includes biological agents found in the environment or diagnosed in animals that have the potential for transmission to humans (zoonosis). Pandemics that are restricted to animal, plant, or food health or safety are outside the scope of this plan.

It is recognized that public health events that are intentional in nature (e.g., bioterrorism) will require a law enforcement/security response in addition to a public health response. While the elements of the public health response to an intentional event may not significantly differ from those described in this plan (and therefore this plan may be utilized for the public health consequence management), the linkages to the law enforcement/ security response are not

within the scope of this plan. Nevertheless, it is expected that the governance structure for a pandemic where the intent is malicious would be similar to that as described in this plan.

Scope

The scope of this plan is limited to the activities of the provincial government outside of the health system and describes the ways in which non-health actors coordinate and interact with their health partners. The Province's medical response to a pandemic will be led by those agencies responsible for disease control and public health, applying provisions of the Public Health Act as appropriate. For information related to the health sector response to pandemic influenza, please see the BC COVID-19 Response Plan that outlines the activities and responsibilities of the health sector to mitigate and respond to an influenza pandemic including plans and guidelines for public health, clinical care, Indigenous peoples, human resources, communications and education, and psychosocial support.

The Pandemic Provincial Coordination Plan is scalable and flexible. The severity of the pandemic, the requirements for coordination and communications, and the existence of unique policy issues, will determine the degree of engagement and the extent of activities required by provincial actors.

This plan is a hazard-specific annex of the provincial Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and it aligns with the BC Emergency Management System (BCEMS).

This plan replaces all previous versions including the BC Pandemic Influenza Provincial Coordination Plan (2014).

Plan Administration

This plan will be reviewed and updated as necessary following changes in organizational structure and/or roles and responsibilities of any of the agencies identified. In addition, the plan will be updated to reflect current best practices and lessons learned from events and exercises.

Plan Activation

The activation of this plan will be determined through consultation between and recommendation from the Deputy Ministers of Health (HLTH) and Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC) to the Deputy Ministers Committee on Emergency Management. This Plan will be activated in coordination with the BC COVID-19 Response Plan.

Considerations for Provincial Government Response

Pandemics are unique from other hazards in various ways including:

- The event is not isolated and will stretch across regional, provincial and international borders at the same time.
- Nearly simultaneous impacts across jurisdictions could affect the activation of existing mutual aid agreements amongst governments, agencies and corporations.

- Uncertain timing and impacts of pandemics require flexibility to address critical needs as determined by the event.
- A pandemic is a long-term event with multiple peaks (also called waves). As a result, operational requirements and considerations are different from events with a shorter duration.
- Unlike other hazards, which are communicated from the site level to local authority/First Nations and then provincial level, pandemics are communicated from the international and national level to the provincial and local levels.

The potential impacts of pandemics are far-reaching and diverse. The following list outlines some of the activities, challenges and consequences that government agencies may need to manage because of a pandemic.

- Consistent and ongoing information for the public regarding the level of risk and preventative measures will be required. Additional communication efforts may be required to manage public fears and personal concerns.
- The maintenance of regular services at all levels of government may be interrupted or reduced due to staff shortages. Government agencies may need to develop modified business practices in order to maintain critical services.
- Government policy may need to be developed in order to facilitate the response to a pandemic and to address key issues.
- An extreme public health emergency may result in an increased demand for psychosocial, mental and behavioural health services.
- If possible, influenza vaccine development will begin as soon as the vaccine seed strain for influenza is developed and delivered to the manufacturer. It may take several months to produce a vaccine. For other pandemics a vaccine will likely need to be developed de novo.
- If school and daycare closures are recommended by the Provincial Health Officer (PHO), it will result in increased demands on parents and the need for guidance to school boards and independent schools regarding levels of risk and appropriate public health measures.
- A pandemic may impact BC's multi-modal transportation network, including both government and industry provided transportation services.
- The health structure may require unconventional support from other agencies to maintain levels of service and coordinate the public health response.

- Pandemics can impact the economy over the long-term and in a variety of ways, such as:
 - decreased production levels due to illness;
 - temporary loss of jobs and business closures (particularly small to mid-size enterprises);
 - reduction or restrictions on public gatherings;
 - potential impact to supply chains;
 - a negative impact to the agricultural sector;
 - adverse ripple effects in the world-wide investment community; and
 - decreased activity within the hospitality and tourism industry due to travel restrictions.

Please note the preceding consequences include extreme scenarios and the extent of these impacts and countermeasures will be determined by the characteristics of the disease. Not all pandemics will overtax the health, economic and/or social support systems.

Legislation

Under the authority of the Public Health Act and the Emergency Program Management Regulation, Ministry of Health (HLTH) is the lead agency and authority in public health emergencies and human diseases as well as responsible for providing critical incident stress debriefing and counselling services.

Provincial and local government legal authority to plan and respond to the health consequences of a pandemic resides within the Public Health Act. This Act addresses health planning, prevention, and response.

The Emergency Program Act and its accompanying regulations specify the roles and responsibilities of provincial ministries as well as local authorities for general emergency preparedness, response and recovery.

According to the Emergency Program Management Regulation and provincial government Core Policy, all ministries are required to complete a business continuity plan to outline the manner and means by which the ministry will minimize the impact of an emergency or disaster on its provision of essential services. During a pandemic, provincial ministries may need to implement business continuity plans to ensure that critical public services remain in place.

WorkSafeBC's Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OHSR) outlines requirements for the development and implementation of an exposure control plan when workers are occupationally exposed to biological agents. Under the OHSR, the employer is required to conduct a risk assessment, performed by a qualified person that includes a listing of all work activities for which there is a potential for exposure. Based on the risk assessment, control measures (including engineering controls, administrative controls, and personal protective equipment) will need to be considered to reduce or prevent worker exposure.

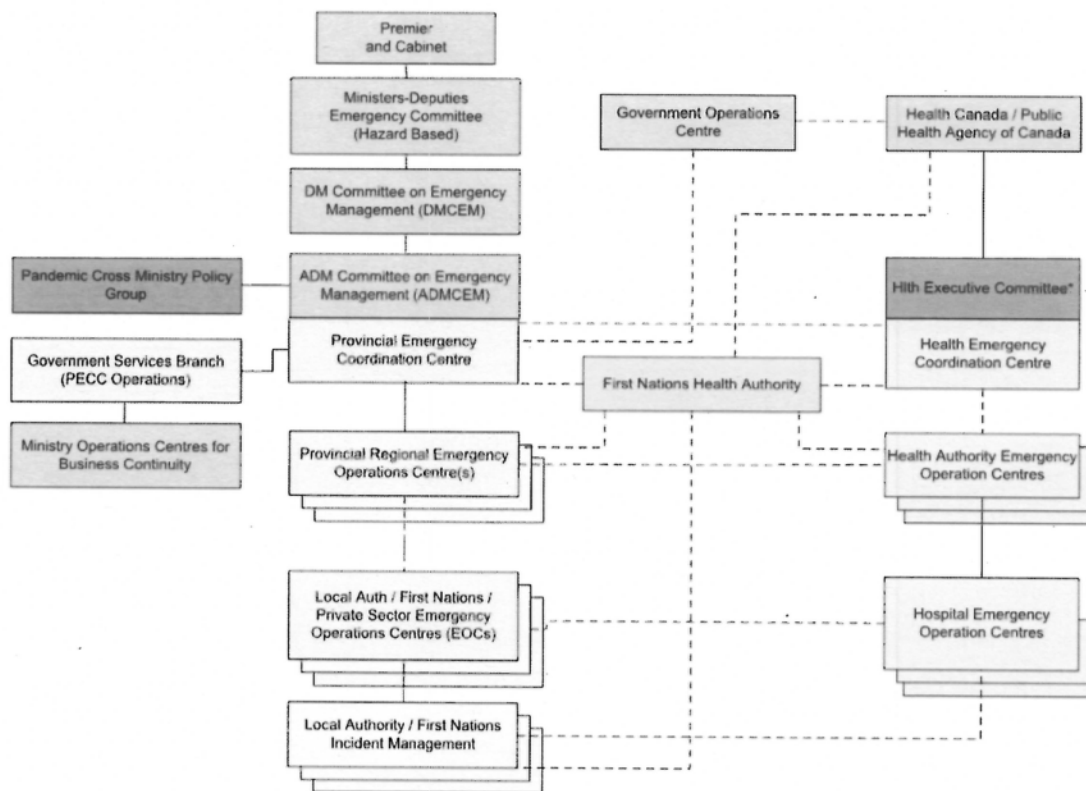
Section 2: Provincial Coordination

Intent of Coordination

The provincial government's response to a pandemic requires integration and coordination of multiple organizations. The intent of effective provincial coordination during a pandemic is to ensure consistent communications and information sharing, conduct effective provincial business continuity and develop cross-ministry policy as required.

Organizational Structure

The following organizational chart follows BCEMS and outlines the linkages between provincial operational centres and the health sector. This structure will be implemented to the degree necessary to deal with the provincial coordination, communication and policy needs of a pandemic resting outside of the health sector. The PHO and HLTH maintain ultimate authority over the public health emergency.



* See Appendix C for the Health Emergency Response Management Structure

Figure 1: Illustration of the provincial emergency management structure and the relationship with the Ministry of Health and other Ministry Business Continuity operations during a pandemic.

Ministers–Deputies Emergency Committee

The Ministers-Deputies Emergency Committee (M-DEC) is comprised of a provincial cross-section of the key provincial Ministers and Deputy Ministers (or designates) who provide direction and strategic guidance to the Deputy Ministers' Committee on Emergency Management (DMCEM) during a pandemic. DMCEM often recommends the activation of the M-DEC.

Deputy Ministers' Committee on Emergency Management

DMCEM leads executive-level prioritization and alignment of provincial emergency management policy, legislation, and operations to ensure that resources are directed towards the most critical emergency management issues and initiatives. During a pandemic, Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC) and HLTH will co-chair DMCEM. DMCEM provides direction and guidance to the Assistant Deputy Ministers' Committee on Emergency Management (ADMCEM).

Assistant Deputy Ministers' Committee on Emergency Management

During a pandemic ADMCEM may be activated to guide cross-government coordination and activities. ADMCEM provides strategic and policy direction to the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) and all provincial ministries and agencies involved in the response to an emergency. ADMCEM is an avenue to discuss significant challenges that require high-level cross-government coordination. In addition, ADMCEM:

- Evaluates the situation and assesses provincial government involvement;
- Supports the activation of M-DEC and DMCEM;
- Oversees the implementation of cross ministry communications; and
- Briefs senior government officials on the pandemic threat as well as preventative, response and recovery activities.

EMBC and HLTH will co-chair ADMCEM during the response to a pandemic. The HLTH-related co-chair position can be designated to a HLTH senior ministry representative or the Office of the PHO. ADMCEM is activated by one of the co-chairs based on an assessment of the risk or the determined need for provincial coordination, provincial business continuity activities or an extensive communications effort. ADMCEM will also activate if there is a potential for public safety issues due to the severity of the pandemic.

The suggested makeup of ADMCEM for a pandemic event is as follows:

- Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, EMBC (co-chair);
- Ministry of Health (co-chair);
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure;
- Ministry of Education;
- Government Communications and Public Engagement;
- Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training;
- Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction;
- Ministry of Children and Family Development;

- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation;
- Ministry of Finance;
- Ministry of Finance, BC Public Service Agency;
- Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness;
- Ministry of Labour;
- Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture;
- Ministry of Agriculture; and
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Depending on response requirements, additional organizations, provincial ministries or federal agencies may be invited to participate in ADMCEM, such as the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), health authorities, Public Safety Canada (PS), Health Canada (HC) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).

Each Ministry that is requested to participate in ADMCEM will designate a senior representative (i.e. Assistant Deputy Minister level) and one alternate to represent them on ADMCEM. Each representative will report to ADMCEM on the prevention, business continuity, response and recovery activities of their respective ministry.

When required ADMCEM will task the Pandemic Cross-Ministry Policy Group to analyze specific pandemic-related issues and situations. The policy group will then provide decision support and recommendations for resolution by the ADMCEM, HECC, PECC or PHO.

Pandemic Cross-Ministry Policy Group

As a sub-component of ADMCEM, the Pandemic Cross-Ministry Policy Group can be activated to address specific pandemic policy issues that may arise.

The Policy Group will assist ADMCEM with:

- Decision support relating to the management and resolution of unresolved policy issues pertaining to or caused by the pandemic;
- Development of processes and policies that support a consistent and equitable resolution to issues that fall outside established policies and protocols; and
- Recommendations for decisions on issues where cross-government involvement and community resilience coordination is required.

Examples of cross-ministry policy areas that may need to be discussed and/or addressed include:

- School closures;
- Transportation sector impacts;
- Financial impacts and/or protocols;
- Agricultural impacts and potential transmission to or from livestock/poultry;
- Workplace policies;

- Supply chain management;
- Psychosocial impacts on the public and workers/responders; and
- Impacts to external services, such as healthcare services, daycare, education, food processing, local governments and their operations/community services, etc.

See Appendix D for the Terms of Reference for the Pandemic Cross-Ministry Policy Group.

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre

During a pandemic the PECC located in Victoria may be activated to coordinate cross-government activities, to monitor internal and external communications for consistency and to facilitate business continuity of the provincial government.

The PECC can be activated to:

- Provide coordination, support and information products to EMBC regional offices or activated Provincial Regional Emergency Operation Centres (PREOCs);
- In coordination with the Health Emergency Coordination Centre (HECC), provide cross-government support to emergency management stakeholders including local authorities;
- Coordinate provincial communications with the HECC and the Office of the PHO;
- Coordinate government's business continuity to support mission critical functions;
- Provide business continuity support to provincial senior officials as requested;
- Facilitate, as required, the acquisition of provincial, territorial, state, national and international assistance;
- Provide support to Senior Officials as required; and
- Provide internal and external situational awareness.

EMBC's Business Continuity Management (BCM) Program will lead the Government Services Branch (GSB) within the PECC Operations Section in order to support and maintain awareness of provincial government business continuity activities within provincial ministries, and central agencies. For further information on the GSB, refer to Section Four: Government Business Continuity During a Pandemic.

HLTH will provide representatives to sit in the PECC Operations Section Health Branch to provide assistance as necessary and to act as a link between the HECC and the PECC.

Health Emergency Coordination Centre

The HECC is operated by HLTH. When activated, the HECC provides inter-region policy direction and coordination. It acts as an overall provincial health coordination centre in the event of multi-region disaster impacts, such as a pandemic, and serves as the coordination and communications link with the provincial emergency management structure, as well as the Federal health portfolio (PHAC and HC).

The HECC has overall responsibility for the following activities:

- Provide support to the emergency management activities of all health partner organizations such as Health Authority Emergency Operation Centres, BC Emergency Health Services, etc.;
- Manage event documentation, situational awareness and reporting;
- Provide support to the planning, response, and recovery activities of HLTH and the Office of the PHO;
- Manage health specific media and public information issues with GCPE;
- Provide emergency-related direction and/or advice to BC health sector organizations, including policy instruction, as appropriate;
- Provide timely and well-coordinated communication within the provincial emergency management structure;
- Provide timely and well-coordinated communication to other provincial, national and international health sector entities;
- Provide access to and advice on the acquisition and use of emergency resources such as the National Emergency Stockpile System (NESS);
- Ensure that appropriate disaster psychosocial support services to the public and workers are in place when needed; and
- Work with the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) Supply Chain on the acquisition and deployment of BC health resources, such as stockpiles, and personal protective equipment (PPE).

Ministry Operation Centres for Business Continuity

To address business interruption needs and ensure service continuation some ministries may open a Ministry Operation Centre (MOC). If this is the case, the MOC will forward situation reports to the GSB of the PECC Operations Section.

EMBC Regional Offices/Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres

During a pandemic, the EMBC regional office or activated PREOC(s) will support HLTH in the distribution of public health messaging. The regional office/PREOC may also assist with the distribution of government policy to local authorities on behalf of the provincial government. In addition, regional offices or activated PREOC(s) will provide guidance to local government decision-makers during pandemics and liaise with the appropriate health authorities, as required.

If a PREOC is activated, a regional and/or First Nations Health Authority representative may be deployed to the Operations Section Health Branch or as an agency representative to act as a link between the regional health authority EOC and to provide assistance, as needed.

Health Authority

Regional health authorities and the First Nations Health Authority are responsible for the provision of emergency, acute and critical care hospital services as well as public health services. In addition, health authorities also work to ensure the continuity of community-based services such as residential care, home care and support, mental health and addictions services.

A health authority EOC may activate to coordinate their response to an emergency and support individual health authority sites, such as hospitals.

Section 3: Communications

Internal Communications

Communications will be directed from the PHO to the ministries and provincial public service organizations. The BC Public Service Agency (PSA) will work in partnership with GCPE and internal communication teams with direction from the Office of the Premier to coordinate the necessary internal communications involving the approximately 30,000 employees of the public service.

At the time a pandemic announcement is made in any country or the World Health Organization (WHO) declares a pandemic phase, the BC PSA will assemble a team, led by the head of the BC PSA (or designate) which includes medical and safety representation. This group would begin monitoring the situation and communicating with clients and employee representatives.

The @Work website, which can be accessed by all public service employees, can be used to post situation specific communications for the information of staff.

External Communications

The [*BC COVID-19 Response Plan*](#) has a chapter on public communications that is general enough to be applicable to the majority of pandemics.

The GCPE representatives within HLTH will be the lead on all external pandemic-related communications to the public. GCPE holds primary responsibility to develop the provincial communications strategy to support the provincial emergency management structure once activated.

GCPE is responsible for the release of news releases and regular information bulletins, as well as protocols around timing and method of how and when information will be released publicly. During a province-wide pandemic response, GCPE will work closely with the PHO and HECC. The ministry communication staff must work in close cooperation with HECC information officers in order to develop emergency public health information responses at all provincial levels.

GCPE will also lead coordination with national communication partners (e.g. PHAC communications staff) to ensure messaging in BC is consistent with that being given throughout the country and around the world.

To ensure consistent messaging, communications between HLTH and the health authorities, the BCCDC, and chief medical health officers, are ideally shared with GCPE prior to distribution with media or the public.

In the event of a public service campaign, the corporate communications division of GCPE will take the lead on the creation of any provincial public service announcement materials.

GCPE support activities include:

- Assign a senior representative for the provincial communication working group;
- Liaise with HC/PHAC public information office;
- Implement the Province's Crisis Communications Strategy for Major Provincial Emergencies and the *CEMP Public Information Annex*;
- Brief senior government officials on communications issues;
- Provide additional Information Officers to work with the PHO and in PECC, HECC and PREOCs, if activated;
- Liaise with the PHO, BCCDC and health authority communications departments during a pandemic; and
- Liaise with economic ministries.

Examples of the communication tools used for public messaging during a pandemic include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Pandemic specific information;
- Information for schools, colleges and universities;
- Information for employers and employees;
- Tourist or traveller information;
- Guidance for businesses;
- Information for sports teams;
- Questions and answers;
- Fact sheets;
- Informative websites;
- News releases;
- Timed press releases, press conferences;
- Backgrounders;
- Advertisements, public service announcements;
- Toll-free telephone information lines;
- Web sites with links to other critical pandemic-related sites;
- Newsletters;
- Technical briefings;
- Presentations; and
- Social media.

Section 4: Government Business Continuity in the Event of a Pandemic

According to the *Emergency Program Management Regulation* and provincial government core policy, all ministries are required to complete a business continuity plan to outline the manner and means by which the ministry will minimize the impact of an emergency or disaster on its provision of essential services. During a pandemic, provincial ministries may need to implement business continuity plans to ensure that critical public services remain in place.

The BCM Program provides a common framework for the development and administration of ministry business continuity programs through the development of cross government policy, the provision of standardized templates and tools, the maintenance of the provincial mission critical list and the monitoring of cross government readiness.

As part of its shared mandate to safeguard the delivery of critical programs and services, the BCM Program provides ministries with the “*Business Continuity Planning Guide for Pandemic Influenza*” and the template “*Appendix P*” for the inclusion of pandemic-specific prevention, mitigation and response strategies in business continuity plans.

The Government Services Branch

During a pandemic the BCM Program will activate the GSB of the PECC to collaborate with the Ministry of Citizens’ Services (CITZ) and BC PSA on the development and dissemination of cross-government strategies, assist with ministry related advanced planning activities and support MOC activations and requests.

The GSB functions under the Operations Section of the PECC and acts as the central point of contact between MOCs and the PECC, as well as the primary liaison with CITZ and central government agencies for business continuity.

The GSB is responsible for:

- Receiving BCP-related requests for assistance or information from MOCs;
- Receiving and consolidating MOC situation reports for submission to the PECC Planning Section;
- Monitoring overall government ministry business continuity recovery status and assisting with cross-ministry issues;
- Working with CITZ to assist with the prioritization of Ministry business continuity related resource or service requests;
- Disseminating relevant information from the PECC to Ministry MOC Directors and BCP Advisors; and
- Briefing ADMCEM on provincial business continuity issues and potential solutions.

Ministry Operation Centres for Business Continuity

MOCs activate to support ministry business interruptions and business continuity plan activations. MOCs are modeled on the BCEMS framework, guided by ministry executive policy groups and integrated with the PECC through the GSB. Activated MOCs provide situational awareness and submit reprioritization or assistance requests to the GSB for processing or ADMCEM escalation.

Section 5: Provincial Agency Roles and Responsibilities

This section outlines the roles and responsibilities of provincial agencies as well as potential policy areas that provincial ministries may need to address.

Ministry of Health

The Office of the PHO provides leadership and guidance to pandemic preparedness activities across the health sector. HLTH maintains the [*BC COVID-19 Response Plan*](#) in conjunction with its partners including the BCCDC, Medical Health Officers (MHOs) and health authorities. In addition, the PHO works with other provinces and territories, and the PHAC to ensure consistent approaches to plans, policies and guidelines for pandemic preparedness and response and communicates these policies, plans, and guidelines to provincial health stakeholders. In the event that HLTH activates the HECC, it will act as a support mechanism to the activities of the PHO and Ministry through its pre-established coordination functions.

HLTH is the lead in the province in the event of a pandemic and is responsible for setting out the manner and means by which the province will respond to the hazard of disease and epidemics. These duties are assigned to the PHO, who partners with the BCCDC and the MHOs in the regional health authorities. The PHO is the primary provincial spokesperson and is responsible, with advice from BCCDC, for the decision to declare a pandemic in the province. HLTH is responsible for ensuring the continuity of health services and as such will liaise with all health partners to coordinate available resources in support of the pandemic response.

Depending on the situation the PHO may delegate certain responsibilities to the BCCDC. In 2007, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed to clarify the roles of BCCDC in support of the stewardship responsibilities of HLTH and the statutory and related responsibilities of the PHO. BCCDC's support role relates to the core programs of communicable disease, environmental health, public health laboratories and emergency management.

During a pandemic response, HLTH may:

- In cooperation with BCCDC, participate in national pandemic surveillance and reporting programs;
- Implement, in cooperation with BCCDC, the [*BC COVID-19 Response Plan*](#);
- Activate the HECC;
- Continue the operation of the 24/7 Provincial Health Duty Officer, to facilitate response and coordination activities;
- Assign a senior ministry representative to act as co-chair of the ADMCEM;
- Provide representatives to the PECC as required;
- Provide public health messaging and guidance;
- Direct the response activities of health sector partners;
- Coordinate the provision of health services, including acute care, home care, long term care, community care, public health and ambulance services; and

- Assist health authorities in emergency procurement and delivery of medical supplies, equipment and pharmaceuticals.

The HLTH Emergency Management Unit (EMU) is responsible for supporting the activation and operation of the HECC. The HECC functions as a central coordinating body for emergency management activities during a pandemic. It provides support to the activities of the PHO, HLTH, health authorities and other health partner organizations, and coordinates provincial health emergency response processes.

HealthLink BC (HLBC) is a tele-health platform that provides multi-disciplinary comprehensive self-care and health system navigation services to British Columbians and health care professionals. In the event of a pandemic, HLBC will provide health related information to the public via 8-1-1 and report to HLTH on service volumes.

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, EMBC

In conjunction with its partners EMBC maintains and updates the *BC Pandemic Provincial Coordination Plan*.

During a pandemic the role of EMBC is to facilitate cross-government coordination, communications and business continuity. To ensure effective provincial coordination and consistent communications EMBC may:

- Co-Chair ADMCEM;
- Provide strategic advice and event information regarding impacts to government operations to senior officials;
- Activate the PECC or PREOC(s) as required;
- Assist with the distribution of health-related messaging that is developed by the PHO/HLTH;
- Assist with the distribution of other ministry and Crown corporation messaging or policy statements;
- Assist with the dissemination of internal human resource related government policy;
- Coordinate with emergency management stakeholders;
- Facilitate information sharing between local authorities, First Nations, health authorities and key stakeholders;
- Hold coordination calls to inform external stakeholders of the pandemic and anticipated impacts;
- Through the Information Officer position (held by GCPE staff) support communications efforts being led by HLTH;
- Through the GSB in the PECC, support the provincial government's business continuity efforts;
- Implement EMBC business continuity measures as required; and
- Support local authorities by sharing information and advising on policy questions and decisions.

In addition, the BC Coroners Service (BCCS) is housed within PSSG. During a pandemic the Chief Coroner will support the PHO, BCCDC, and medical health officers by providing information about any pandemic-related deaths outside of the healthcare setting. The Coroners Service may also assist by establishing temporary mortuaries, as required.

Business Continuity Management Program

EMBC's BCM Program will provide business continuity support and expertise to MOCs including assistance in confirming priority rankings for provincial government services. The BCM Program representative in the GSB will assist CITZ, MOCs and PECC Operations in determining resource allocation for the provincial government. It is also responsible for providing evaluation criteria and support for response, recovery, resumption and restoration efforts for mission critical provincial government programs.

During a pandemic, the BCM Program within EMBC works with provincial central agencies and CITZ to coordinate corporate strategies and protocols.

In addition to assisting provincial ministries with the development of templates, strategies and exercises for business continuity plans, EMBC's BCM Program has created and maintains the *Business Continuity Planning Guide for Pandemic Influenza* to assist provincial ministries in preparing and planning for a pandemic. As well, the program provides strategic leadership, coordination, information, tools and assistance to provincial government ministries to increase the preparedness of the province to maintain critical government services during and following a major disruptive event.

Government Communications and Public Engagement

During a pandemic, GCPE and HLTH will have primary responsibility for communications support for the PHO. They will work closely with EMBC to promote the coordination and understanding of roles between health agencies and the agencies responsible for consequence management.

GCPE has the primary responsibility to implement the provincial communications strategy once the provincial emergency management structure is activated. GCPE provides information officers to the HECC and the PECC as needed to provide expertise in media relations and public information activities. Associated activities include:

- Implement the Province's Crisis Communications Strategy for Major Provincial Emergencies and *CEMP Public Information Annex*;
- Ensure the readiness of Temporary Emergency Assignment Management System (TEAMS) information officers;
- Brief senior government officials on communications issues;
- Assign a senior representative to the ADMCEM;
- Liaise with HC and PHAC public information officers;
- Liaise with and support the PHO, BCCDC and health authorities' communications departments;

- Contribute to or create public education campaigns and media releases during a pandemic including vaccination and hygiene measures;
- Fulfill the Information Officer role in the PECC, HECC and PREOCs (if activated);
- Provide expertise and support regional and local public information campaigns as necessary; and
- Coordinate cross-agency media briefings.

Ministry of Children and Family Development

The Ministry of Children and Family Development (MCFD) supports healthy child development by its commitment to a collaborative professional practice delivered across a range of services that strive to maximize the potential of children and youth and achieve meaningful outcomes for children, youth and families.

Programs and services are delivered through Service Delivery Areas and Provincial Programs offices and facilities. Children in care are the responsibility of the Provincial Director of Child Welfare, and could be living with caregivers such as foster parents, specialized homes, or even with relatives. In the event of a pandemic, the primary impact on the Ministry will be on the children in care. There will also be a greater demand for services, the need to coordinate information for caregivers, and fewer staff and service delivery partners available to provide those services.

MCFD's priorities during a pandemic are to perform the identified mission critical functions and report on the major strategic risks and responses that are essential to maintaining operations. MCFD mission critical functions are:

- Children in care (including Independent Living Agreements for youth):
 - Ensuring children in care have the services and supports they need to stay healthy
 - Any necessary direct funding, e.g. Independent Living Agreements
- Youth
 - Ensuring appropriate information provision
 - Funding and supports for Youth on Agreements and youth receiving Agreements with Young Adults funding
- Caregivers including contracted, foster, and out of care (including post-adoption assistance)
 - Supporting caregivers with information, services and supports
 - Payments
- 24-7 Facilities (including for children in care, children in therapeutic settings, youth in custody (open and closed):
 - Ensuring safety and security
 - Ensuring health and well-being
 - Fulfilling court-ordered requirements
- Centralized Screening:
 - Receiving calls associated with child protection

- Coordinating information for children, youth and caregivers served by the Ministry
- Centralized telephony and IT:
 - Supports 24-7 phone lines for child protection and helpline for children
 - Access to electronic records
 - Coordinates information and supports with offices and caregivers across the Province in times of emergency
- Medical Benefits:
 - Essential medical equipment, supplies; and
 - MSP coverage for children who have significant disabilities and are dependent in most areas of daily living.
- Child Protection Services:
 - Intake, assessment and interventions when required; and
 - Family support services and placement.
- Community Youth Justice Services:
 - Information and reports required by the Justice System; and
 - Provincial Director of Youth Justice Reviews.
- Community-based Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services:
 - Assessment and treatment services under the auspices of the Youth Criminal Justice Act for youth aged 12 – 17 years.
- Child and Youth Mental Health:
 - Community-based, specialized mental health services to children and their families.

Ministry Business Continuity Plans identify the procedures and required resources necessary to continue essential operations. Local Client Service Managers and Team Leads work with those plans and provide a focus on the unique effect a pandemic will have on the province. Ensuring up to date information is provided to youth, and to caregivers for children in care as well as those cared for through the out of care system will assist in supporting the health and welfare of children for whom the Province is the guardian or who are actively receiving supports and services. A centralized unit operates to receive updates from youth and caregivers and to coordinate assistance and support.

As articulated in the *Emergency Program Management Regulation*, the primary responsibility of the MCFD in an emergency situation is to care for unattended children.

Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction

The Ministry of Social Development and Reduction (SDPR) provides a system of income and other supports and services to help families and individuals in need. Income assistance supports and services are delivered by over 2,000 staff in 84 locations around the province that offer in-person client services, including at 44 Service BC locations, as well as through on-line and telephone channels. Employment programming is currently delivered through contracted service providers at 102 WorkBC Centres. Community living services across the province for

people with developmental disabilities and their families are provided through Community Living BC.

The key accountabilities of SDPR include:

- Leading development and implementation of a cross-government, province-wide poverty- reduction strategy – *TogetherBC: BC's Poverty Reduction Strategy*;
- Leading development and implementation of a homelessness action plan to reduce the homeless population through permanent housing and services – in partnership with provincial ministries and agencies, local governments, first responders and service providers;
- Providing income, disability and supplementary assistance for people in need;
- Providing an integrated system of employment programs and services and supports to all British Columbians through WorkBC;
- Through, Community Living BC, supporting community living services for adults with developmental disabilities and their families; and
- Supporting emergency services for vulnerable populations during a catastrophic event.

In the event of a pandemic, SDPR's support network may experience an increase in the demand for ongoing social services, while at the same time experiencing a loss in capacity to meet that demand. SDPR has business continuity plans in place outlining the strategies and resources required to ensure ministry clients and staff are able to meet operational requirements and key ministry accountabilities with minimal disruption of services to the following three overall mission critical SDPR functions.

- Provide financial, housing and other supports for vulnerable SDPR clients, or for those eligible for assistance;
- Recovery of ministry information systems; and
- Provide a network of trained staff and facilities to assist across the province, under the direction of EMBC.

As part of a pandemic response, SDPR is ready to provide information and analysis regarding the status of at-risk populations, as well as implement operational plans to ensure the province's most vulnerable populations have access to financial and other critical resources. A cross-agency team (comprised of senior ministry staff and key stakeholders) will assemble to ensure a consistent and coordinated response across the province. SDPR can also leverage several ongoing programs and outreach services to ensure hard to reach clients are made aware of programs and services available to address a pandemic.

Ministry of Education

Recognizing that in the event of a pandemic BC's education sector may experience temporary interruption or reduction of services, the Ministry of Education (EDUC) is part of the provincial pandemic response.

To date, the Ministry has been involved in extensive planning to mitigate the risks and address specific challenges to minimize disruption of services provided to students and families while continuing to ensure students' and staff safety.

EDUC has business continuity plans in place with branches responsible for processing payments to ensure schools receive funds to meet operational requirements in case of emergency such as a pandemic.

EDUC's priorities during a pandemic are to minimize disruption of services while ensuring students' and staff safety. Under that goal, three main roles for the EDUC:

- Communications:
 - To assist with the distribution of health-related messaging that is developed by the PHO and HLTH. Consistent and ongoing information will be required for ministry employees, the education sector, and students' families regarding the level of risk and preventative measures.
- Staffing:
 - Ensure adequate staffing in line with the Ministry's Business Continuity Plan. If the emergency situation appears to be long term in nature, develop and implement a staff relief plan.
- Continuity of Instruction:
 - The Ministry will be working with key contacts in each school district to ensure continuity of instruction in the event of prolonged school closures. A number of alternative means are already in place, such as online learning, correspondence, and home schooling.

Boards of education are responsible for the safety of their staff and students at all school district facilities in the event of an emergency, incident or disaster. In the *Pandemic Planning Guidelines for School Districts*, districts are asked to form an Emergency Response Team, develop a communications plan and identify strategies and plans to address a number of areas, including disruptions in continuity of instruction, transportation and janitorial services. *Pandemic Planning Guidelines for School Districts* ensure some consistency in district pandemic plans.

School Closure Guidelines have been developed to guide decision-making for public health officials around school closures due to a pandemic. The Guidelines are based on public health criteria and align with national guidelines released by the PHAC. The closure of schools and daycares will result in increased demands on parents and the need for guidance to school boards and independent schools regarding levels of risk and appropriate public health measures.

Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training

A pandemic has the potential to lead to the suspension of classes and the closure of entire institutions in the public and private post-secondary systems in BC, affecting tens of thousands of students, faculty and staff. Institutions are expected to follow the public health guidelines and instructions set out by their local health authorities, emergency management and public health officials. Administrators will communicate all relevant information to students and employees in a timely manner.

The Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training's (AEST) priorities during an influenza pandemic are to:

- Provide a Post-Secondary Institution (PSI) liaison to the PECC to support the provincial response;
- Disseminate relevant information from the AEST MOC to BC Post-Secondary Emergency Planners or PSI EOCs;
- Request regular updates from the post-secondary sector on impacts on students, staff and services, as well as updates on impacts within the ministry, for submission to the Government Services Branch of the PECC and executive briefings;
- Provide expertise and/or policy direction regarding PSI requirements and accountabilities;
- Distribute health-related communication tools and information developed by the PHO, HLTH, EMBC and GCPE to the post-secondary sector;
- Continue regular funding transfers to public post-secondary institutions;
- Provide support to PSIs in order to meet the immediate needs of students during the emergency; and,
- Advise institutions and students that StudentAid BC has policies in place covering the interruption of studies due to cancellation of classes and/or institution closures.

Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation

The Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (IRR) is the BC Government's lead for pursuing reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples of BC. In the event of a pandemic, IRR will provide advice regarding Indigenous Peoples engagement to all other provincial ministries and agencies. In addition, IRR may:

- Work with HLTH and EMBC to develop protocols with their key First Nations partners about information transmission to Indigenous Peoples;
- With HLTH and EMBC, work with Canada/First Nations organizations to address any service or funding gaps that fall outside existing agreements;
- Engage with First Nations communities as a liaison when there is a gap in relationship with any response agencies (provincial or federal) or a lack of regional representation; and

- In a larger event, and in partnership with HLTH, EMBC, additional agencies and Indigenous Communities, maintain the “Consultation during Emergencies and Disasters” tracking sheet. The tracking sheet ensures government agencies needing to carry out consultation maintain a high level of awareness of an events’ impacts on a given Indigenous group.

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

In the event of a pandemic, BC’s multi-modal transportation network may experience a temporary, but significant, impact to the movement of people and goods and/or transportation services.

As part of the pandemic response, the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (TRAN) is ready to provide analyses for the movement of people and goods via highways, ports, airports, railroads, public transit and ferries, as well as prepare operational plans for the implementation of transportation strategies within BC.

Three levels of transportation services have been identified to address emergency operational situations during a pandemic:

1. Full service and unrestricted movement of people and goods.
2. Partial service restricting the movement of people and goods based on inability to fully staff and/or reduced services restricting movement of people and goods due to a PHO order.
3. Temporary cessation of any service that facilitates movement of people and/or goods due to insufficient staffing levels or by PHO order.

TRAN’s priorities during a pandemic are to perform the identified mission critical services, and report on the major strategic risks and responses that are essential to maintaining operations of the provincial transportation network. TRAN’s four mission critical services are:

- Highways:
 - Maintain operation of the highway system, including avalanche forecasting and control, and emergency response through the assemblage and deployment of resources necessary to meet pandemic-generated demands.
- Traffic operations:
 - Program lights and changeable message signs while facilitating safe and effective alternative emergency transportation corridors for emergency operations, authorities, commercial transportation and the general public.
- Radio and electronics:
 - Provide critical communications to ministry staff, contractors, emergency response teams and all highway users.
- Inland ferries:

- Ensure safe transportation in areas that require an alternate highway system.

A cross-agency transportation team (comprised of senior ministry staff and key stakeholders) will assemble to ensure a consistent and coordinated response across all transportation modes, in order to operationalize the ADMCEM's overall emergency preparedness and response strategies.

TRAN is prepared to establish a Transportation Dispatch Centre in order to provide further assistance in efficiently prioritizing the deployment of essential people, goods and services while utilizing all modes of available transportation. The Ministry is also equipped with public communication tools and infrastructure, such as DriveBC and Dynamic Message Signs (DMS), which may be used as an information dissemination method should critical communication stages emerge during a pandemic.

Ministry of Finance

The Ministry of Finance (FIN) manages revenue and borrowing on behalf of government and makes all government payments. Payments include income assistance, children at risk, health authorities, crown corporations, refunds and salaries. The Ministry also has the authority to expedite procurement of emergency goods and services.

During a pandemic, there may be a temporary reduction in tax payments and, therefore, revenue to government. However, eTaxBC is available to all citizens and businesses, and is the primary method by which the majority of provincial sales tax (PST) returns and payments are submitted. It provides clients remote and secure 24/7 access to their accounts. This means that the impact on revenue collection during a pandemic will be minimal.

If necessary, the Ministry has the ability to borrow funds to address any temporary shortfall of revenue. During a pandemic, the Ministry will also maintain communication with the banking industry to better understand their preparedness and manage government's ability to operate on a timely basis.

The following are the mission critical business areas for FIN:

- Provincial Treasury,
 - Banking & Cash Management – Manage payments on behalf of government.
 - Debt Management Branch – Manage borrowing funds.
 - Risk Management Branch – Provide risk management expertise and management of emergency claims.
- Office of the Comptroller General
 - Corporate Compliance & Controls Monitoring Branch – Capture, process and redirect payments that have become legally encumbered by court order, or through federal or provincial legislation, and legally served on the province

- Corporate Accounting Services – Ensure electronic payment processing and payment tracking (e.g. accounts payable and general ledger) for BC Government
- Revenue Division
 - Revenue Solutions Branch – Process and approve the daily preapproval of student loan disbursement funds
- Corporate Services Division
 - Information Management Branch – Provide IT support to Offices of the Premier, including Minister’s Office, Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat (IGRS), and Cabinet Operations
- Government House – Lieutenant Governor
 - Provide necessary support for continuance of the Lieutenant Governor’s Office and of Government (in the absence of another statutory authority, only the Lieutenant Governor can sign proclamations, Orders in Council or warrants that authorize major extraordinary funding).

During a pandemic, the ministry may temporarily reassign employees to ensure mission critical business functions are maintained.

Risk Management Branch

Although Risk Management Branch (RMB) falls under FIN, the Branch works independently in support of all provincial government Ministries, Crown Corporations, and the wider public sector. During a pandemic, the primary role of the RMB is to coordinate and facilitate the development of a multi-Ministry risk register as required. Part of this process includes assisting Ministries in the identification of risks, mitigation strategies and plans. In addition, RMB also assists health authorities in the identification of risks to the provision of health services.

If the PECC is activated, the RMB will provide an individual to fulfill the risk management function. The RMB also advises the ADMCEM regarding the identification of risks within the context of responding to a pandemic.

Refer to the RMB [website](#) for additional information and supporting materials.

Public Service Agency

During the preparedness stage, the BC PSA will have shared responsibility with EMBC’s BCM Program for providing human resource advice and employer representation. This includes consultation with public service employee representatives, and partner organizations (e.g. WorkSafeBC).

The BC PSA’s labour legislation, collective agreements rights and entitlements will guide the early stages of pandemic planning.

Overall the BC PSA will support Ministries’ human resource needs including staff safety, in the event of a local or regional event as defined by the *Public Health Act*. This includes supporting the following critical items:

- Provide Ministries with safety and occupational disease information, support, protocols and tools to respond to a pandemic thereby ensuring staff safety.
- Help ensure accurate and timely information flow to employees.
- Work with Public Service unions and professional associations to inform them of safety measures, exposure control plans and any policy changes.
- Assess extraordinary policy decisions.
- Provide professional advisory support to all ministries to respond to various questions and issues concerning matters related to terms and conditions of employment, pay and leave provisions.
- Coordinate with WorkSafeBC and any other regulatory agencies as necessary.
- Work to ensure payroll is completed, taking into consideration any changes made due to new or extraordinary policies.

BC PSA services and service levels could be negatively impacted by a lack of capacity during a pandemic. A multidisciplinary inter-agency team will be assembled to ensure the BC PSA has the ability to respond to critical issues. This team is equipped to work remotely if necessary. The team will be directly linked into the ADMCEM and the Pandemic Cross-Ministry Policy Group through the BC PSA representative on those teams.

In the event of a pandemic the BC PSA will focus its resources on priority services that are needed to address Ministries' high priority needs.

Ministry of Agriculture

During provincial response to a pandemic the Ministry of Agriculture (AGRI) will:

- Assign a senior representative to the ADMCEM;
- Provide advice on the protection and health of livestock and poultry;
- Provide a representative to the appropriate PREOC, if activated;
- Provide agriculture related information to local governments and First Nations as required;
- Advise on the management of flocks/herds affected by a pandemic;
- Provide laboratory services for the surveillance and diagnosis of zoonotic diseases (including influenza) that could be spread to or from livestock and poultry;
- Communicate to agricultural producers and stakeholders through agriculture industry associations; and
- Participate in regional planning as required.

In addition, AGRI's response to a pandemic will be directed by the Ministry's Business Continuity Plan – Pandemic Influenza. AGRI mission critical activities include:

- Emergency Planning and Response:
 - Provide advice to farmers on protection of crops and livestock;

- Provide agriculture-related information through EMBC regional offices/PREOC, local governments, industry associations and direct communications/website;
- Coordinate emergency relocation of poultry and livestock as required;
- Establish the Ministry EOC, as required;
- Identify food and potable water supplies with HLTH; and
- Assist HLTH with food safety.
- Monitor and Diagnose Animal Diseases, with emphasis on foreign animal diseases.
- Milk Production and Testing.

The ministry's Director of Emergency Management is responsible for the pre-planning and coordination of AGRI Emergency Responder support to a local government, First Nation or EMBC regional offices/PREOCs/PECC. Ministry responders will be activated when the Ministry receives a direct request for assistance from the EMBC Regional Manager, PREOC, PECC, local government, or First Nation. The Ministry's Animal Health Center in Abbotsford is responsible for the ongoing surveillance and diagnoses of animal diseases, including zoonotic diseases. Zoonotic diseases, such as some influenza viruses, can be transmitted from livestock and poultry to humans or vice-versa. The Ministry has an agreement in place for information exchange with the health sector to ensure timely information sharing regarding zoonotic diseases.

Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness

The Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness (JEDC) plays key roles in supporting a strong economy, through trade, economic development, support for the small business sector and broad awareness of BC's opportunities for investment. The ministry also plays a role in supporting in-bound immigration through the Provincial Nominee Program, in partnership with the federal government.

During provincial response to a pandemic, the ministry will:

- appoint a representative to the ADMCEM;
- advise on the viability and risks associated with inward and outward-bound trade missions in partnership with IGRS;
- support the small business sector in adapting to pandemic related impacts (and eventual recovery) working closely with Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture;
- support policy and procedural changes associated with in-bound immigration should it be necessary (working closely with the federal government);
- advise on trade policy should shifts in international trade policy have an impact on BC trade interests; and
- work across ministries to support effective economic analysis and mitigation strategies to minimize the impact and support recovery of BC's economic development, trade and investment.

Ministry of Labour

The Ministry of Labour (LBR) would play a key role should the province be impacted by a pandemic or similar widespread event.

It is anticipated that a pandemic may increase demands on labour advisory services to the public (i.e. providing advice to workers and employers respecting the workers compensation system and minimum employment standards). In the event of an extended pandemic, key Ministry services can be maintained at a reasonable level in accordance with the Ministry's business continuity plan, as many of the services can be offered remotely (e.g., electronically, by telephone).

In terms of government's overall response to a pandemic, LBR will be available to provide analysis and advice to government on labour policy and legislation. This will ensure that the current legislative provisions continue to adequately address the economic and social imperatives related to the workplace. During a pandemic, WorkSafeBC would continue its work to promote workplace health and safety for BC workers and employers, develop and enforce the Occupational Health & Safety Regulation (OHSR), and administer the workers' compensation system.

Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (TAC) is responsible for, through its Crown corporations, a number of public gathering places: BC Place, Vancouver Convention Centre and the Royal BC Museum. Should it be required, TAC will provide direction regarding phased response strategies (e.g. access, closures) and possible redeployment as relief centres.

In the event of a pandemic, BC's tourism industry may experience a temporary, but potentially economically significant impact. As part of the pandemic response, TAC is ready to provide analysis and policy direction as well as ensure tourists and tourism businesses are informed and aware. TAC will draw from tourism market protection and recovery strategies from previous international health issues.

International Travel

The threat of a pandemic can prompt other nations to issue travel advisories recommending against non-essential international travel, causing individuals to cancel international travel, and triggering immediate (and potentially longer-term) tourism declines. TAC will work with Destination British Columbia (DBC), GCPE, IGRS and other stakeholders to monitor international travel advisories and develop a communication strategy geared to accurate information and positive tourism messages about travel to and within BC.

Services for Tourists

TAC will work with EMBC and TRAN to coordinate the needs of travellers moving within the province on cruise ships, public transportation (buses and ferries), planes, trains, border crossings, etc. Accurate messaging, consistent with the PHO and GCPE, will be developed for social media and web-based communication such as HelloBC, DriveBC and Dynamic Message Signs. These tools may also be useful in disseminating critical information to tourists if needed during a pandemic.

Through DBC, the provincial network of Tourist Visitor Centres may also be utilized for communication or traveler referrals for needed services during a pandemic.

During and following a pandemic, a cross-agency tourism team (comprised of senior ministry and DBC staff and appropriate key stakeholders) will engage with tourism businesses to ensure they are providing appropriate messaging to their clients and are prepared to accept tourists again when safe to do so.

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

In the event of a pandemic, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MAH) would provide an advice and support function and act as a liaison between local governments and provincial agencies, as well as with key system partners, such as the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM), the Local Government Management Association (LGMA), and BC Housing to ensure accurate information is conveyed across local governments and the housing community. Supports would focus on activities listed below.

BC Housing

A pandemic has the potential to impact the operation of emergency shelters and supportive housing where staff work on-site. A pandemic could also interrupt the provision of housing outreach services. BC Housing will provide pandemic planning information to service providers of emergency shelters, supportive housing, homeless outreach, and other BC Housing-funded programs, if required. BC Housing will coordinate communications and actions via the MAH Housing Policy Branch.

Residential Tenancy Branch

The Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) provides information and dispute resolution services to the public. A pandemic has the potential to impact the following services:

- Face-to-face interaction with citizens at the Burnaby RTB Office;
- Decreased availability of employees due to illness could cause increased wait times for both hearings and information services; and
- Decreased availability of employees could cause hearings to be rescheduled.

In the event of a pandemic, the RTB will rely heavily on its digital workflow tools to ensure employees are able to work remotely while still having access to all necessary case files,

evidence and related information. This can limit exposure and even allow individuals with very light symptoms to continue working.

Key projects could also be impacted; however, virtually all of RTB's project management and continuous improvement architecture allows remote work from any location with internet service (this assumes government VPN services are functioning effectively or not overwhelmed by increased volume of remote work).

TransLink

A pandemic event has the potential to impact the operation of Lower Mainland transportation system services as well as employees and passengers. MAH will understand TransLink's pandemic plan and liaise with TransLink in the event of an outbreak that warrants regional or Provincial coordination.

Section 6: Roles of Key External Agencies

British Columbia Centre for Disease Control

During a pandemic, the BCCDC (an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority) will provide technical scientific support to the PHO, Medical Health Officers and regional health authorities. BCCDC will implement an enhanced Public Health surveillance system to monitor pandemic activity when appropriate. The BCCDC also bears responsibility for providing guidelines for the distribution and use of vaccines (if available) in BC and the equitable distribution and use of anti-viral medications (if available). Public information regarding these issues will be distributed via the news media. The BCCDC will collect and share updated information on vaccine coverage, and the overall number of cases and deaths related to the pandemic. BCCDC also develops provincial guidelines to minimize the spread of a pandemic in the community including guidelines on detection and management of cases and contacts of the biologic agent, community measures such as social distancing and public health rapid response research and investigation.

On behalf of the Office of the PHO, the BCCDC provides administration of provincial vaccine and antiviral supplies including:

- Distribution to regional health authorities;
- Guidelines and protocols for use;
- Secure storage and transportation;
- Information for public and healthcare providers regarding proper use; and
- Refinements to the priority of vaccine recipient groups according to the nature of the virus and consequence management plans.

BCCDC will work with HLTH and the PHO to evaluate the use and effectiveness of vaccines and antiviral medications in reducing the number of severe cases and deaths.

Regional Health Authorities

Health authorities are responsible for planning the health system response to a pandemic within their region with direction from both the PHO/HLTH. Health authorities liaise with local partners to facilitate a coordinated response. Each regional health authority is responsible for their pandemic response plan. These plans may include the:

- Command structure and operational procedures;
- Prioritized delivery of health services;
- Protocols for vaccine and anti-viral use and inventories of stockpile supplies;
- Plans for mass vaccination delivery;
- Identification of alternative care locations and resources;
- Protocols for continued delivery of acute and residential care services;
- Risk communication strategies for internal and external stakeholders;
- Human resource plans for managing staff and providing safety considerations; and
- Education plans for health care providers and the public.

Health authorities are also responsible for participating in disease and public health surveillance as per the [BC COVID-19 Response Plan](#). This includes reporting exceptional disease incidents to the BCCDC and the PHO and providing briefings and status reports to partner agencies.

The operational structure within each regional health authority varies but it is likely that during a pandemic response, regional health authorities will activate a health authority EOC. Potential activities of the EOC include:

- Implement the regional health authority pandemic response plan and support the continuity of operations;
- Implement public health and infection control measures to reduce the spread of the disease;
- Coordinate the dissemination of medication and supplies;
- Coordinate immunization clinics once/if vaccines become available;
- Deploy personnel to act as the agency's representative(s) in the PREOC if activated;
- Implement the [Psychosocial Plan for Health Care Workers](#); and
- Coordinate information sharing and public messaging with the, MHO and local governments.

MHOs in each health authority are responsible for directing the public health response, and have wide-ranging authority under the [Public Health Act](#). This legislation allows MHOs to restrict and monitor activity in their region that can potentially increase the spread of a pandemic, in consultation with the PHO. For example, an MHO may give orders to minimize gatherings in public centres, limit public travel and the use of transit systems, and assist with federal screening of travellers at ports of entry. In addition, the MHO may direct the provision of care for those infected with a pandemic and order isolation and/or quarantine measures of individuals or groups. It is common for MHOs to act as a spokesperson concerning public health issues in consultation with the PHO and GCPE.

There are five regional health authorities in BC (Information regarding the First Nations' Health Authority is located below) and one provincial health services authority. For detailed information regarding the activities of each regional health authority see the following links.

[Fraser Health Authority](#)

[Interior Health Authority](#)

[Northern Health Authority](#)

[Island Health Authority](#)

[Vancouver Coastal Health](#)

[Provincial Health Services Authority](#)

First Nations Health Authority

The First Nations Health Authority (FNHA), a tripartite arrangement between BC First Nations, the Province of BC, and the Government of Canada, aims to reform the way health care is delivered to BC First Nations. This health authority administers federal health programs and services previously delivered by Health Canada's First Nations Inuit Health Branch – Pacific Region. FNHA works with the province and First Nations to address service gaps through partnerships, close collaboration, and health systems innovation.

The Communicable Disease Emergencies (CDE) initiative is responsible for ensuring that the special considerations and needs of First Nation communities are reflected in overall pandemic planning, for which the PHAC is the lead. In First Nation communities, the initiative supports the development, strengthening and testing of community pandemic plans. In the event of a pandemic, it also supports communities' responses.

With respect to pandemics, the FNHA role is to:

- Support communities in preparing for a pandemic by facilitating testing and revision of community level plans as needed;
- Facilitate communities' response to a pandemic (e.g., support mass immunization clinics, provide training, guidance documents, etc.);
- Ensure health facilities have access to personal protective equipment (e.g., masks, gloves, gowns) during a pandemic; and
- Ensure that First Nations circumstances are reflected in overall pandemic planning at all levels of government.

BC Emergency Health Services

BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) oversees BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) and the BC Patient Transfer Network (PTN).

During a pandemic, the BCAS remains a key first responder and is the main provider of provincial pre-hospital care including the treatment and transport of the sick and injured by air and ground ambulance services. The principal roles and responsibilities of BCAS during a pandemic include the provision of prioritized ambulance services in cooperation with regional health authorities as well as liaising with health authorities and the BC PTN regarding bed availability throughout the province. BCAS helps to facilitate inter-facility patient transfers and takes part in pandemic surveillance activities. BCAS also plays a key role in the protection of hospital staff and patients from potential exposure by notifying health facilities of patients suffering from severe respiratory illness that are being transported to their facility.

The BC PTN is a provincial service that coordinates inter-facility transfers and communication between sending/receiving healthcare sites across the province. In addition, BC PTN provides 24/7 clinical oversight to patient transfers.

Local Governments

During a pandemic, local governments are required to maintain essential services for their community. Local authorities may achieve this through day-to-day structures or by establishing an EOC. Some potential activities include:

- Managing local government business continuity;
- Setting priorities for maintaining public safety;
- Maintaining essential community services;
- Liaising with the EMBC regional office/PREOC, health authority and other support agencies for situational awareness;
- Working with local businesses to maintain a level of service in the community for critical services;
- Initiating prevention measures in local authority/First Nations work places to reduce staff infection and exposure to a pandemic; and
- Planning for local government re-establishment of normal business.

In addition to business continuity, some of the activities that local governments/First Nations may undertake to reduce the spread of a pandemic in their communities include:

- Working collaboratively with EMBC regional offices and regional health authorities regarding public health campaigns;
- Supporting the regional health authorities, according to existing arrangements and/or discussions during the pandemics; or
- Holding public education and planning sessions with key stakeholders in the community including business owners and school districts.

Note: The *Emergency Program Act (1996)* and the *Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation* do not recognize a pandemic outbreak as a disaster or emergency. Therefore, local authority costs for response activities related to a pandemic are not eligible for reimbursement under the *Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation (1995)*.

Federal Government

Health Canada

In the event of a pandemic, Health Canada is responsible for:

- Providing occupational health care for federal government employees; and
- Approving new drugs and vaccines to treat Canadians and minimize the spread of disease in the event of an outbreak.

Health Canada, in partnership with the provinces and territories, has a plan in place to ensure appropriate steps are taken to protect Canadians including that, once produced, an influenza vaccine will be available to Canadians at the earliest possible time.

Public Health Agency Canada

PHAC is the lead federal department with primary responsibility for the surveillance, prevention and control of infectious diseases and the minimization of serious illness and fatalities at the national level. See the Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Public Health Response Plan for Biological Events for further information.

PHAC also assists in developing national guidelines and planning tools for health services, accessing federal resources and implementing federal responses to minimize the spread of disease during a pandemic. Public education and federal communication strategies are developed in advance of the pandemic.

The federal government through the PHAC is responsible for acquiring and distributing vaccines to the provinces and territories. Federal agencies will also be responsible for implementing health mitigation strategies at international points of entry as well as liaising with international actors regarding medical supplies. PHAC may also work with port authorities and border services to monitor individuals entering and exiting the country.

The federal government holds responsibility for the nationwide coordination of pandemic response, including national surveillance, international liaison, and coordination of the vaccine response (infrastructure procurement, vaccine allocation etc.). PHAC will link with PHOs and the WHO to receive nation-wide and international level information regarding the pandemic outbreak. PHAC is also the liaison with the WHO under the International Health Regulations.

For further details regarding the activities of the PHAC, please see the [Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan](#).

Public Safety Canada (PS)

Public Safety Canada (PS) is responsible for coordinating the whole of federal government response to an emergency. In the event of a pandemic, PS will support PHAC in coordinating the overall federal public health response and medical emergency response effort, the

communications response of the federal government, stakeholder efforts to maintain critical services in their areas of responsibility and coordinate federal provision of assistance to the Province if required (health related issues or support requests will go from HLTH to PHAC). In addition, PS will provide situational awareness, daily briefs and consolidated situation reports to all stakeholders. When a pandemic begins to affect the BC Region, a Federal Coordination Group (FCG) will convene and activate the federal regional emergency management structure.

World Health Organization

The World Health Organization (WHO) performs global public health surveillance and disseminates surveillance information. The WHO also provides recommendations on composition of influenza virus vaccines. The following is an excerpt from the *Pandemic Influenza Risk Management WHO Interim Guidance*.

Copyright

Activities of the WHO include the promotion of global and national capacity to detect and respond to early reports of new influenza strains and to encourage and assist comprehensive national pandemic influenza planning. The WHO also coordinates global surveillance networks and provides information to partners at the international, national and sub-national levels.

During the pandemic phase WHO activities may include:

- Establish a WHO pandemic information and coordination centre;
- Coordinate the global strain surveillance;
- Recommend/update the composition of pandemic influenza vaccine(s);
- Monitor global spread of the disease;
- Assist with national reporting;
- Reiterate appropriate and inappropriate public health measures for affected and unaffected countries;
- Coordinate international assessment of vaccine and antiviral susceptibility, effectiveness and safety; and
- Regularly brief international organizations, national authorities, other stakeholders and the public of the situation.

For further details regarding the WHO refer to www.who.org.

Appendix A: Acronyms

AEST	Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
AGRI	Ministry of Agriculture
ADMCEM	Assistant Deputy Ministers' Committee on Emergency Management
BC	British Columbia
BCAS	British Columbia Ambulance Service
BCCDC	British Columbia Centre for Disease Control
BCEMS	British Columbia Emergency Management System
BCM	Business Continuity Management
BCPSA	British Columbia Public Service Agency
CDE	Communicable Disease Emergencies
CEMP	Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
DBC	Destination British Columbia
DMCEM	Deputy Ministers' Committee on Emergency Management
EDUC	Ministry of Education
EMBC	Emergency Management British Columbia
EMU	Emergency Management Unit
EOC	Emergency Operation Centre
FIN	Ministry of Finance
FNHA	First Nations Health Authority
GCPE	Government Communications and Public Engagement
GSB	Government Services Branch
HC	Health Canada
HECC	Health Emergency Coordination Centre
HLBC	Health Link BC
HLTH	Ministry of Health
HSSBC	Health Shared Services BC
IRR	Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
JEDC	Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness
LG	Lieutenant Governor
MAH	Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
MCFD	Ministry of Children and Family Development
M-DEC	Ministers-Deputies Emergency Committee
MHO	Medical Health Officer
MOC	Ministry Operation Centre
NESS	National Emergency Stockpile System
OHSR	Occupational Health and Safety Regulation
PECC	Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre
PHAC	Public Health Agency Canada
PHO	Provincial Health Officer

PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PREOC	Provincial Regional Emergency Operation Centre
PS	Public Safety Canada
PSA	Public Service Agency
PSSG	Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
SDPR	Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
TAC	Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture
TEAMS	Temporary Emergency Assignment Management System
TRAN	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
WHO	World Health Organization

Appendix B: Definitions

Antiviral: Medicine taken to reduce the severity of a viral infection (e.g. influenza). BC has stockpiled enough antiviral medications used to treat influenza to provide early treatment for those persons who present symptoms of pandemic influenza to their healthcare providers. Antiviral stockpiles are limited and distribution will be prioritized for early treatment in the event of a pandemic based on the characteristics of the disease and national direction.

Business Continuity Plan (BCP): A set of approved procedures and advance arrangements to ensure continuity of the organization's critical business due to a disruption to normal business operations. (In this case, the disruptive event is a pandemic that results in the need for plans to contain influenza spread, maintain critical services and manage high absentee rates).

Chief Medical Health Officers (CMHO): Are appointed by Regional Health Authorities to coordinate activities of Medical Health Officers, within the health authority area of operations.

Critical service disruption: Impact of illness on critical services for example, police services, fire protection, or water management.

Medical Health Officer (MHO): In the event of a threat to the health of the public, within his/her appointed area, Medical Health Officers are empowered to take the steps necessary to protect public health within that area.

Mission Critical Services: Those functions and processes that, should they not be performed, could lead to loss of life or injury, personal hardship to citizens, major damage to the environment, or significant loss of revenue or assets.

Pandemic: A pandemic is defined as an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people. Pandemics can be said to occur annually in each of the temperate southern and northern hemispheres, given that seasonal epidemics cross international boundaries and affect a large number of people. However, seasonal epidemics are not considered pandemics.

Pandemic influenza: Pandemic influenza, as defined by WHO, occurs when a known influenza virus changes into a new and virulent strain that is readily transmitted from human to human and against which people have little to no immunity.

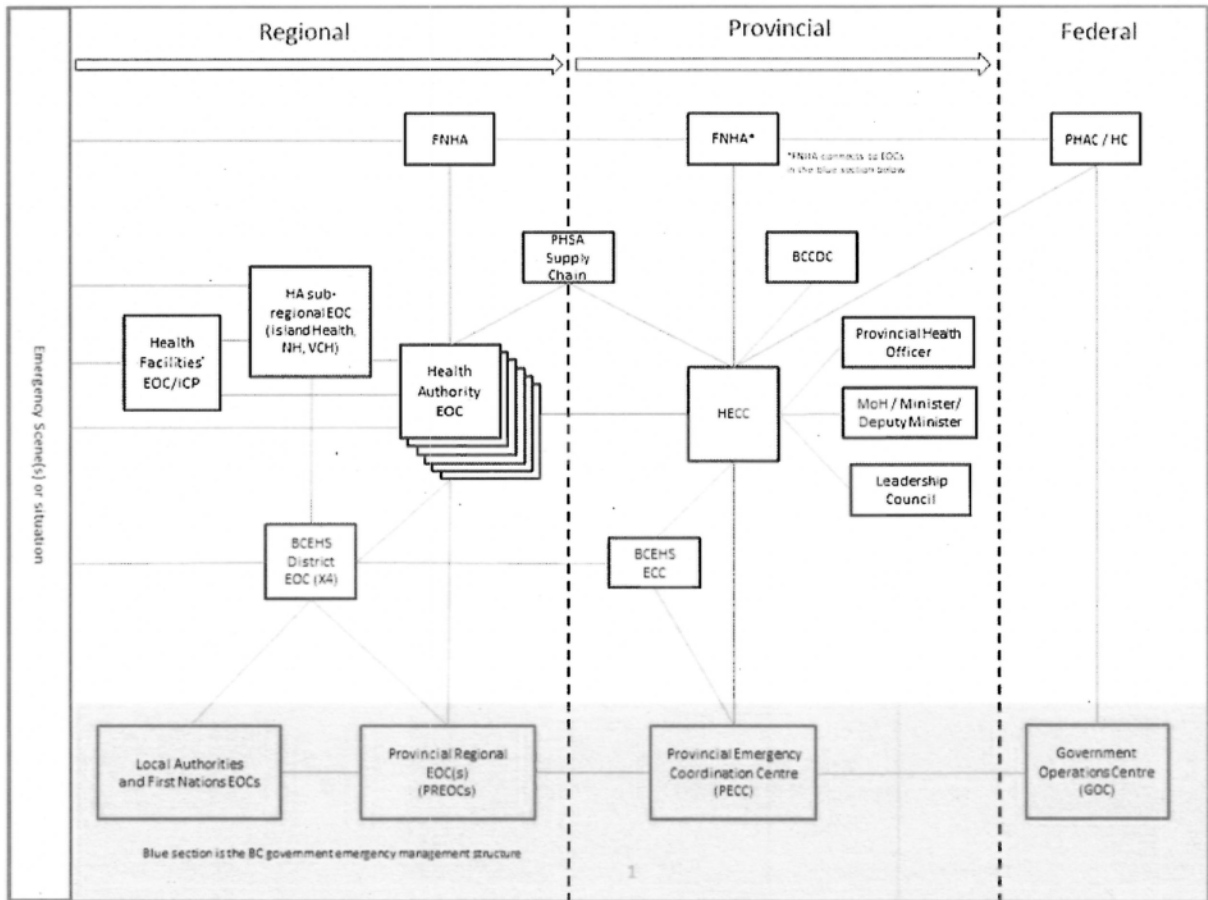
Provincial Health Officer (PHO): In the event of a threat to the health of the public, the Provincial Health Officer has the authority to direct the response to protect the public and works with Medical Health Officers in the health authorities and any other agencies as required.

Surveillance: A process of the ongoing collection, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of health-related data and information to guide the public health response to the biologic event.

Vaccine: A product which generates a protective immune response, administered by injection to a person by a medical or public health professional, to prevent infection by an infectious agent (e.g. influenza virus). An effective vaccine can only be produced once the virus responsible for the vaccine has been identified and isolated. This could take between four to six months for influenza but may be much longer for other new viruses or bacteria.

Zoonotic Diseases: Are infectious diseases that are transmitted from animals to humans. Some Influenza viruses, like the H1N1 pandemic flu strain, are zoonotic as well. Many of these diseases may start with animals, but can be transmitted between people or from people to animals.

Appendix C: BC Health Emergency Response Management Structure



Appendix D: Pandemic Cross-Ministry Policy Group

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Introduction

During an emergency event, such as a pandemic, the Assistant Deputy Ministers' Committee on Emergency Management (ADMCEM) engages subject matter experts to provide research and analysis on legislation and policies as well as technical knowledge to support cross-ministry coordination and resolution of complex issues. The ADMCEM will report to the Deputy Ministers' Committee on Emergency Management (DMCEM).

As a sub-component of the ADMCEM, the Pandemic Cross-Ministry Policy Group ("the Policy Group") can be activated to address specific pandemic policy issues that may arise.

Purpose

The Policy Group will assist the ADMCEM with:

1. Decision support relating to the management/resolution of unresolved policy issues pertaining to or caused by a pandemic;
2. Development of processes and policies that support a consistent and equitable resolution to issues that fall outside established policies and protocols; and
3. Recommendations for decisions on issues management where cross-government involvement is required.

Guiding Principles

All members of the Policy Group will be governed by the following guiding principles:

- Constructive – The parties will foster constructive working relationships:
 - Each member will undertake the necessary internal steps to ensure the commitment of member's ministry to the work of the Policy Group.
- Proactive – Members will work to ensure that any potential concerns regarding inter-agency cooperation are identified in a proactive manner and that steps are taken to avoid them, or to address them as soon as possible.
- Information sharing – Each member will share information relevant to the issues being discussed by the Policy Group. This will include:
 - sharing of information respecting the development or amendment of legislation, policy, practices (in advance where possible);
 - sharing relevant information from ministry committees with Policy Group members; and

- clearly communicating the goals and purposes of the Policy Group to others.
- Confidentiality – In some instances, members may be privy to materials and/or information that may be confidential in nature or not for wider distribution. Members will maintain confidentiality when and as appropriate.
- Respect for mandates – All members will recognize and respect the mandates and statutory decision-making functions of the other members of the Policy Group:
 - Recommendations, policies, and protocols developed by the Policy Group should not limit or constrain the exercise of discretion of any ministry represented within the group in respect to a statutory power or decision.
- Partnership – The parties will give credibility to the work of the Policy Group that reflects a sense of partnership and shared responsibility for responding to the issues posed by a pandemic.
- Efficiency and Practicability – Members seek to ensure that the goals of the Policy Group are achieved in a manner that:
 - minimizes the need for the development of additional referral systems and other activities that will impose significant resource requirements on staff; and
 - supports an appropriate degree of flexibility implementing regional protocols, where present, so as to reflect the particular needs and circumstances of the various regions.

Membership

The Policy Group may be composed of membership from the following Ministries/Agencies, depending on the issues posed by the pandemic:

- Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, EMBC (co-chair);
- Ministry of Health (co-chair);
- Public Service Agency;
- Government Communications and Public Engagement;
- Ministry of Attorney General, Corrections;
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure;
- Ministry of Education;
- Ministry of Citizens' Services;
- Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training;
- Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction;
- Ministry of Children and Family Development;
- Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation;
- Ministry of Finance;
- Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness;
- Ministry of Labour;
- Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture;
- Ministry of Agriculture; and
- Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

Ministries may choose to identify members at the time of the event, based on the specific issues to be addressed.

Note: Other Ministries/agencies will be brought in to provide specific agency information, identify priorities and consult on options as required.

Responsibilities

Members of the Policy Group will be responsible for:

- Providing recommendations for the resolution of complex policy issues brought on by a pandemic;
- Researching past practices and legal opinions;
- Coordinating and collaborating with subject matter experts;
- Ensuring that their ministry is adequately represented;
- Making recommendations to the ADMCEM, DMCEM and/or MDEC; and
- Determining other issue-specific participation in the group.

Pandemic Cross-Ministry Policy Group - Procedures

Chairperson –

The Policy Group is co-chaired by Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and the Ministry of Health (HLTH).

Meeting Frequency –

Once convened, the Policy Group will determine a meeting schedule based on the particular needs of the event.

Status reporting –

The Policy Group Co-Chairs will report to the ADMCEM, DMCEM and/or MDEC as required. The reporting format to be used will be verbal briefings and Ministry Briefing Notes, when appropriate.

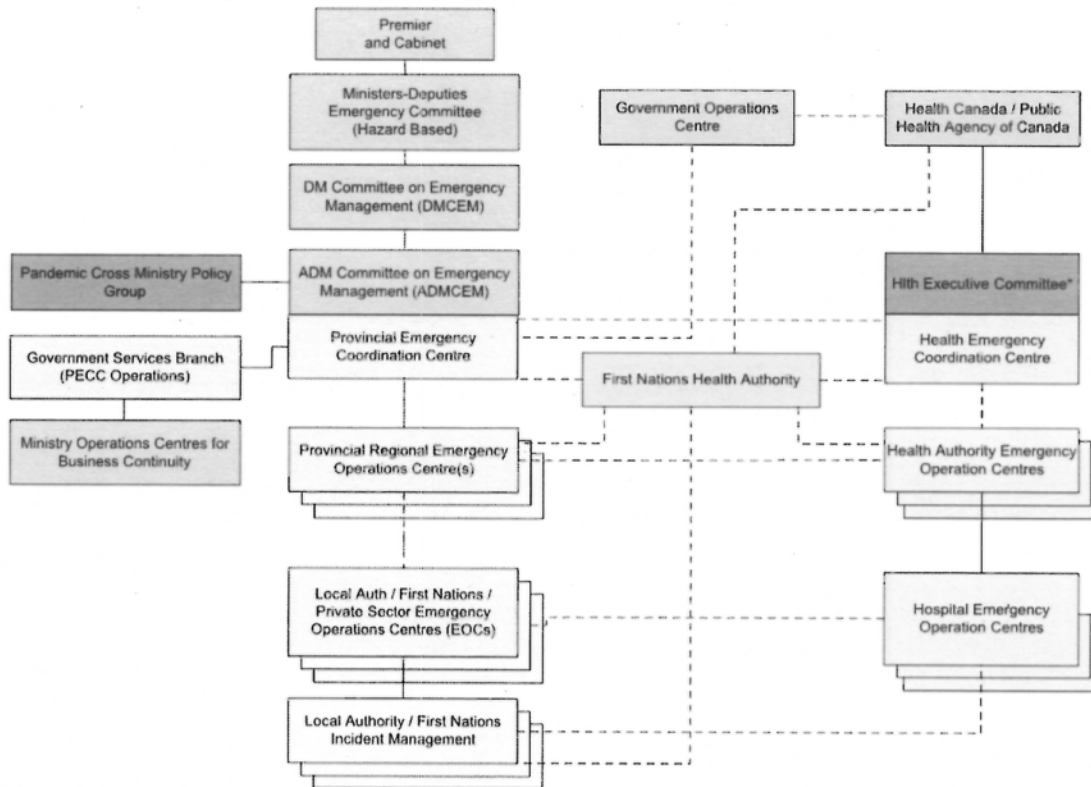
An organization chart depicting the relationship between key entities is attached in Annex A.

Disagreements or Unresolved Issues

If any disagreements or unresolved issues arise during the work of the Policy Group, the Co-Chairs must seek guidance from the ADMCEM. In the event that the ADMCEM is unable to resolve the disagreement in a mutually acceptable manner, the disagreement or issue must be brought forward to the DMCEM for resolution by the ADMCEM chairs.

Annex A

Pandemic Provincial Coordination Plan Organizational Structure



Appendix E: Agreements and Policies

- **Canada-United States Civil Emergency Planning and Management**
 - The 1986 Canada-United States Civil Emergency Planning and Management Agreement was reaffirmed in 1998. The agreement establishes the means for bi-lateral cooperation in comprehensive emergency management and facilitates planning for the development of mutual cooperation for comprehensive civil emergency management by provinces, states and municipalities, including the exchange of information relative to prevention, mitigation and assistance.
- **Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement**
 - The *Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement (PNEMA)* was signed by Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and the Yukon Territory and was approved by Congress and the President in 1998. Washington State has been leading an effort to add an annex to PNEMA which specifically addresses issues related to public health that occur in emergencies. In particular, the dissemination of health data and licensing and liability of healthcare personnel are among the topics addressed by the annex.
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Public Health Emergencies between the Province of British Columbia and the State of Washington**
 - In June 2006 a MOU on Public Health Emergencies was signed by the BC Minister of Health and Washington State Secretary of Health in response to the recognized need to formalize existing informal communication/collaboration through agreements between public health partners. In developing the MOU, the partners agreed to continue to undertake a collaborative approach on the use of available health service resources to prepare for, respond to and recover from public health emergencies.
- **Pacific North West Border Health Alliance**
 - The *Pacific Northwest Border Health Alliance (PNWBHA)* was endorsed at the 2008 Cross Border Public Health Workshop (Bellingham). The alliance encompasses the Provinces of British Columbia and Saskatchewan, the Yukon Territory, and the States of Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington. The PNWBHA formalized the current informal cross border working groups at the 2011 Cross Border Public Health Workshop to ensure sustainability of the collaborations and provide a framework for further collaborative work, including mutual assistance and interagency and interdisciplinary collaboration.
- **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Public Health Emergencies between British Columbia and Alberta**
 - In October 2006, the BC Minister of Health Services and AB Minister of Health and Wellness signed an MOU on Public Health Emergencies. The agreement calls for a collaborative approach between the provinces to respond to surge capacity

demands on health systems and resources when public health emergencies arise in Alberta or British Columbia.

- **National Plan for the Management of Shortages of Labile Blood**
 - In 2009, the National Advisory Committee on Blood and Blood Products, in collaboration with Canadian Blood Services (CBS) and stakeholders across Canada, produced the National Plan. The specific purpose of the Plan is to maximize the effectiveness of a national response to any crisis which impacts the adequacy of the blood supply in Canada, with primary emphasis on the jurisdictions served by CBS, but also in contemplation of close collaboration with participants of the blood system in Québec. The Plan assumes that all efforts to increase the available supply of blood components have been exceeded and addresses the allocation of the available scarce blood supply. The Plan addresses labile blood components; however, many of the principles would also be applicable to a shortage of fractionated or recombinant plasma protein product.

Appendix F: Resources and Authoritative Sources of Information

[WHO Pandemic Website](#)

[Flu Net \(Global Surveillance\)](#)

[Flu Watch \(PHAC Surveillance\)](#)

[BC Centre for Disease Control](#)

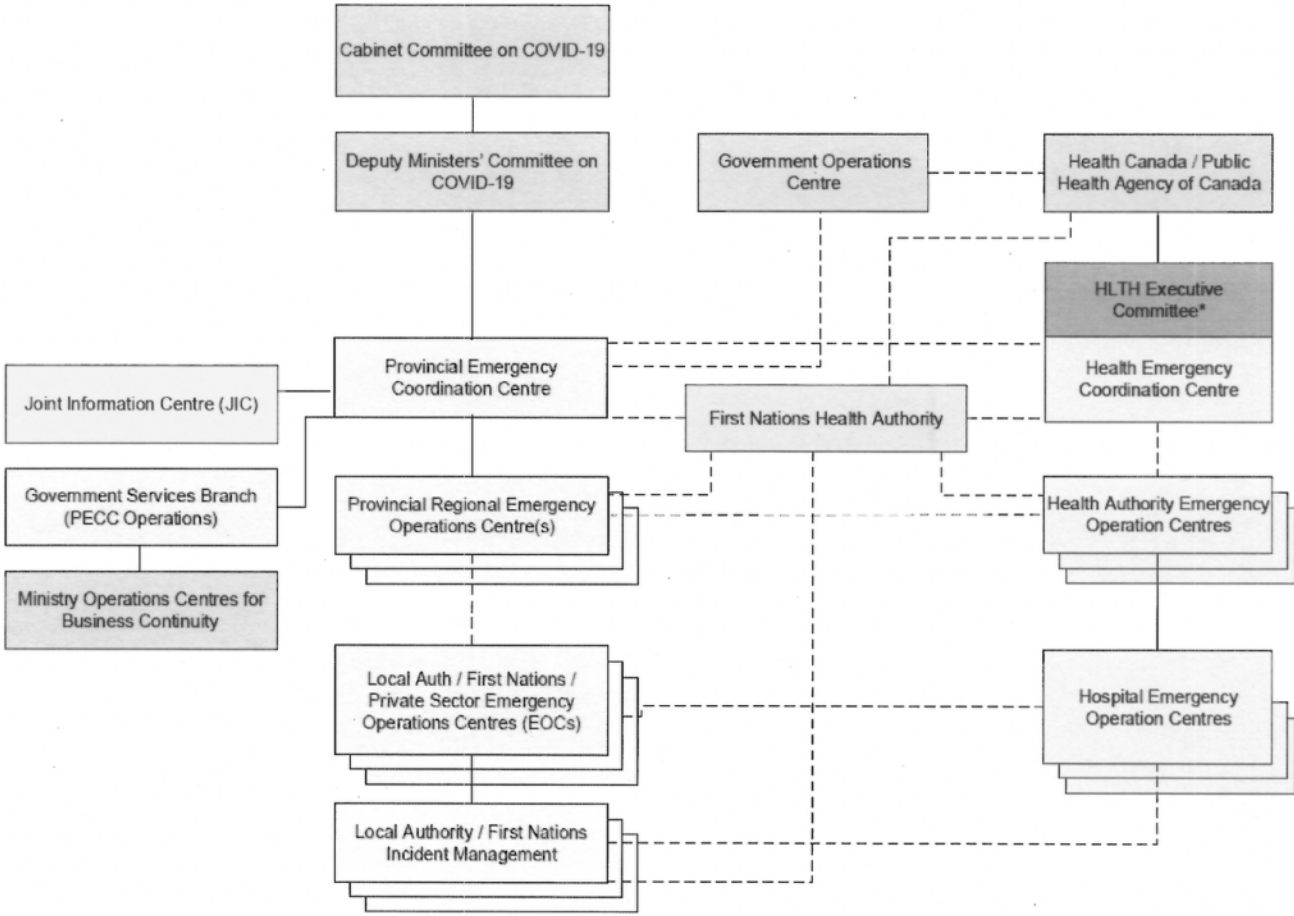
[BC COVID-19 Response Plan](#)

[Canadian Pandemic Influenza Plan](#)

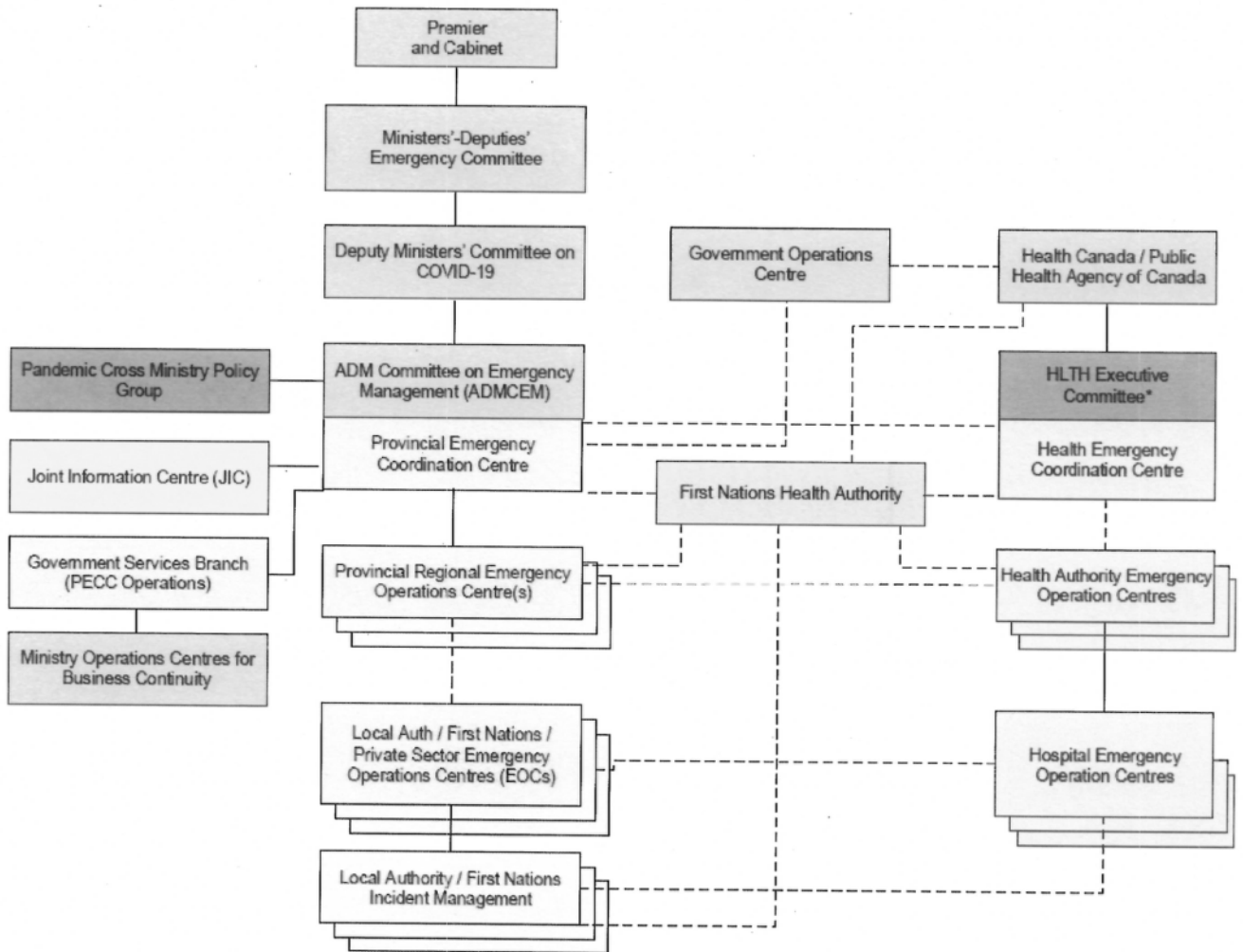
[HealthLink BC Files – What is Influenza](#)

[FPT Public Health Response Plan for Biological Events](#)

COVID-19 Response Structure



Fully Activated Provincial Emergency Management System



Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre

PROVINCIAL SITUATION REPORT

SITUATION REPORT NO.	#
INFORMATION CURRENT AS OF:	MM/DD/YY-HH:MM

Hazard(s): COVID-19

Operational Period:

Next Sit-Rep will be issued:

Primary PECC E-mail:

Primary PECC Phone:

***New information is noted in red font**

Note: Information contained in this situation report is for operational purposes only. The contained information is not meant for external dissemination. If you wish to use information contained herein for release, you must clear it with the Joint Information Centre.

PROVINCIAL OVERVIEW

CONFIRMED CASES (BC)	RESOLVED CASES RECOVERED / DEATH	EMPLOYEES UNAVAIL	GOV. BUILDING CLOSURES	MOCs ACTIVATED	BCPS ACTIVATED	IMPACTED CRAS	IMPACTED MISSION CRITICALS
#	# / #	#	#	#	#	#	#

Source: BC COVID-19 Dashboard via EMBC Common Operating Picture; Ministry reporting

Key provincial information:

This section should serve as an executive summary for BC. Key events and the 'so what?' associated with them

- E.g. The total number of confirmed cases has risen by ## since the previous operational period
- E.g. Status of BCPs and what, if any, CRAs/mission critical services are currently impacted
- E.g. Note of any new publicly/government released communications, tools, or resources

GLOBAL OVERVIEW

CONFIRMED CASES (CND)	FATALITIES (CND) RESOLVED CASES RECOVERED / DEATH	CONFIRMED CASES (GLBL)	RESOLVED CASES RECOVERED/ DEATH	COUNTRIES W CONFIRMED CASES
#	# / #	#	# / #	#

Source: Johns Hopkins University via EMBC Common Operating Picture

Key global information:

This section should serve as an executive summary for the global situation. Key events and the 'so what?' associated with them

- E.g. New regional quarantines have been issued and a summary of measures being taken; newly discovered clusters; travel restrictions

HECC OVERVIEW

This should be area-specific and have a 'so what?' associated with each description; could be taken from HECC sitrep

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- E.g. The HECC is currently activated and is working on **** as priority activities.
- E.g. Based on current modelling, the outlook for continued spread of COVID-19 is ***.

MINISTRY UPDATES					
MINISTRY	STATUS UPDATE	MOC ACTIVATED ?	BCP ACTIVATED?	CRAS IMPACTED (#)	MISSION CRITICALS IMPACTED (#)

EMERGING PROVINCIAL ISSUES

****Any additional hazard-specific information that is relevant and has a 'so what?' associated with it****

- Issues raised by ministries
- Issues being reviewed by APU

BUSINESS CONTINUITY PLANNING INFORMATION

E.g. Ministry of Parks

- Ministry is reporting an inability to maintain critical services due to staff illness

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

E.g. MoTI

- Major road closures

E.g. BC Ferries

- Ferry closure

K-12 / POST-SECONDARY

E.g. EDU

- Ministry is reporting X # school closures.

TOURISM / LARGE GATHERING EVENTS

E.g. TAC

- Ministry is reporting several large gathering events of potential concern.

SUPPLY CHAIN INFORMATION

E.g. Medical Supply Chain

- Shortage of N95 masks reported in VIHA

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INFORMATION

E.g. BC Hydro

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- BC Hydro reporting strain on systems in the Lower Mainland due to increased residential usage as employees are directed to work from home

COMMUNICATIONS INFORMATION

E.g. Joint Information Centre

- 1-800 number initiated

EMERGING FIRST NATION/LOCAL AUTHORITY ISSUES

FN / LA NAME

HAZARD:

Incident(s) and details:

- Key updates, changes, etc.
- E.g. New cluster identified in care home; 7 residents impacted and in quarantine

FN / LA NAME

HAZARD:

Incident(s) and details:

- Impacts to community essential services, planning that is underway, identified needs or resources from the province. This section will also include any other emergencies being managed (ie/ flooding, spill, etc.) and the possible impact from COVID-19.
- Key updates, changes, etc.
- E.g. Community has established community centre as public information centre and is distributing tip sheets, cleaning supplies, and information about psychosocial support services

AGENCY REPORTS

E.g. PECC STAFF

- Identify all ministries or agencies in the PECC separated by physically on site and those immediately available remotely.

E.g. Canadian Red Cross

- What services are being provided, etc.

E.g. Salvation Army

- What services are being provided, etc.

APPROVED BY:

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

PECC DIRECTOR

Resources:

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ITEM	LINK
FPT Public Health Response Plan for Biological Events	https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/emergency-preparedness/public-health-response-plan-biological-events.html
Public Health Act	http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/08028_01
British Columbia Pandemic Provincial Coordination Plan	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/provincial-emergency-planning/pandemic-provincial-coordination-plan.pdf
BC COVID-19 Response Plan	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/pandemic-influenza

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OVERVIEW: JOINT INFORMATION CENTRE

INTRODUCTION

A Joint Information Center (JIC) is a centralized communications hub where, during an emergency, communications representatives from all impacted agencies gather and disseminate critical public information in a coordinated, effective manner.

A JIC has several main objectives during an emergency:

1. To gather, verify, coordinate, and disseminate critical emergency information under ICS.
2. Establish itself as the official source of trusted and accurate information for the public and agencies to turn to.
3. Create a collaborative working environment that allows for continued building of relationships and sharing of information with the other Functional Units (Advanced Planning, Operations, Logistics) and all agencies involved.

Ultimately, a JIC should be coordinated with the common goal of creating a singular, trusted voice among all agencies that is able to cut through the clutter and offer clear, comprehensive and timely information to those who need it, when they need it.

PUBLIC INFORMATION DURING AN EMERGENCY

A JIC operates with the goal of reaching three levels of audiences during a time of emergency:

1. **Primary Audience:** those directly impacted by the emergency event, including the public, internal and external stakeholders, partner agencies, First Nations and local authorities.
2. **Secondary Audience:** those in surrounding areas potentially impacted by the emergency event, or who may have a perceived interest, including the public, other partner agencies, First Nations and local authorities.
3. **Tertiary Audience:** mainstream, social and ethnic media. While media may not be a primary audience themselves, they are a critical vehicle for distributing information to both the primary and secondary audiences in a timely manner.

During an emergency, clear and effective communication flowing from agency public information partners within the JIC will play an integral part of keeping people, partners, and communities aware of the most important information they need to know as soon as possible.

Public and stakeholder information can include:

- Self-protective and preventative actions to be taken (including dissemination of guidelines)
- Information and regular updates about response and recovery efforts
- Access to assistance for individuals and families, businesses, etc
- Next steps to be taken by community members

- Communication of key policy changes/direction as needed
- Evacuation alerts, orders and rescinds
- Event alerts, warnings or watches (such as during a tsunami)
- Updates on critical infrastructure and transportation routes if affected

Given the complex nature of the issue and the need to ensure a unified purpose, a provincially-led Joint Information Centre is being established. A JIC Director will immediately undertake the following:

- Gaining situational awareness and understanding operational needs
- Deciding on the type of JIC that needs to be established and its location, including:
 - Staffing considerations including skills required for each role(s) and support staff
 - Materials and equipment required; operational tasks and priorities
 - Key agencies and partners that should be represented
 - Establishing processes to assign, develop and approve all communications materials
 - Establishing a daily schedule, including a daily agency communications call

MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION WITHIN A JIC STRUCTURE

Collaboration among all the agencies and stakeholders within a JIC is critical to success. Failing to do so effectively can result in wasted resources, possible danger to the public and first responders, confusion among partner agencies, delays in recovery efforts, and increases the likelihood of duplication of efforts.

A JIC will mirror the structure of the Command Structure in terms of agency leads and roles of partner agencies. The JIC should ensure collaboration and coordination among all partners to both gather and distribute information by sharing materials, messaging, and reach (such as via social media). These tools may include in-person events, flyers, door-to-door communication, community meetings, broadcast television, radio, and newspapers, social media, SMS messaging, media interviews or press conferences, and websites. Whatever tools the JIC uses, the messages must remain clear and in sync with all agencies and partners.

REPORTING STRUCTURE

When a JIC is established, it should be located within the highest level of activated emergency operations center, be that federal, provincial, regional or local. In response to COVID-19, that will be the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre. As with all levels of emergencies, the physical location of a JIC should be easily accessible and include all equipment necessary, including power, phone lines, computers, printers, reliable internet access, red vests and name tags for all participants. If a virtual JIC is established, or a number of JIC staff are unable to be physically located together, then all members in a virtual JIC would still follow the principles of Incident Command System. The JIC Chief would coordinate approvals before information is sent out to the public and stakeholders.

The JIC Chief reports directly to the operational lead of the emergency event (PECC Director, Incident Commander, etc.). Note that the PECC Director will receive clear direction on authority for information release through DM Committee on COVID-19 or Cabinet Committee on COVID-19 as appropriate. JIC Chief will attend DM Committee meetings.

COVID-19 RESPONSE – ACTION CHECKLIST

March 9, 2020

- EMBC accountability includes all of government approach and multiple or identified ministries
- MOH accountability includes Public Health, HAs, service partners and contractors

CASE BASED/SMALL CLUSTER CONTAINMENT		
Focus	Objective	Actions
Identification and containment of case specific instances or small clusters of viral infection	Enhanced screening, information, and testing as needed for travellers to meet global spread to multiple countries	1) Continue to work with Federal Government on support and guidance for travellers (Action MOH/IGR) Key areas of focus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airports • Border crossings with Washington, Idaho, Montana, Alaska • Cruise Industry • Ports – merchant traffic, pleasure craft and other movements
	Rapid public health response to isolate; monitor/provide care; trace, monitor, isolate and care for contacts as needed	1) Continue implementation and monitor capacity of public health to implement (Action MOH/PHO) 2) If numbers grow discuss criteria of when to move away from this response (Decision PHO)
ACTION COMMITTEE STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA PANDEMIC PROVINCIAL COORDINATION PLAN		
Focus	Objective	Actions
Activate as needed <i>British Columbia Pandemic Provincial Coordination</i>	Implement provincial government strategy for cross-ministry coordination, internal and external communications; ensuring provincial government business continuity; action	1) Implement Cabinet Committee – TOR, agenda preparation, frequency, support (Action EMBC) 2) Implement DM Committee - TOR, agenda preparation, frequency, support (Action EMBC) 3) Establish the Joint Information Centre (Action EMBC/GCPE): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-800 for non-health businesses and institutions • Communication lists for targeted push-communications • Media inquiries and briefings • Public information campaign (Decision) 4) JIC: Ministries identify key stakeholder lists for communication purposes (Action EMBC/Ministries)

		<p>5) JIC: Ministries reach out to key stakeholders to open communication channels and respond to/manage issues (Action EMBC/Ministries)</p> <p>6) Key sector reach-out and support (Action EMBC/Ministries):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Municipalities • First Nation and Indigenous Leadership and Communities • Schools • Colleges/Universities • Business Sector • Public transportations • Food supply chains • Tourism • Workcamps • Fuel supply chains • Water • Wastewater • Hydro • Agriculture <p>7) MOH activate the HECC EMBC activate the PECC</p>
	<p>Access as required to emergency powers arising from Emergency Program Act and Public Health Act</p>	<p>1) Protocols and formal processes in place in readiness to implement emergency powers as required (Action EMBC/AG/SG/HLTH)</p>
FOUR AREAS OF FOCUS TO PREVENT, SLOW DOWN, AND AS REQUIRED MANAGE A BROADER COMMUNITY WIDE SPREAD INFECTION		
1. Protecting Population		
Focus	Objective	Actions (JIC)
Communication for Public	Proactive and accurate communication to general public	<p>1) Media Health Briefings – Format/Frequency/Personnel (Guidelines MOH)</p> <p>2) Potential risk from Covid-19 – What We Know (Fact Sheet MOH)</p> <p>3) How Do I Protect Myself? (Fact Sheet MOH)</p> <p>4) Routine Cleaning of Home and Co-Living Settings (Fact Sheet MOH)</p> <p>5) Appropriate Use of Masks (Fact Sheet MOH)</p> <p>6) Guidelines for Self Isolation (and family and friends who are supporting individuals) (Fact Sheet MOH)</p>

	Proactive communication of potential scenarios of how the virus might spread and how we will manage those situations	1) Potential steps that government may take to respond and/or contain the spread of Covid-19 (Fact Sheet; led by HLTH; EMBC and PSA supporting)
Protect Public	Guidance for large gatherings and events	1) Risk Assessment Expectations (Assessment Package PHO) 2) Large Gathering or Events (Guidelines and Action Plan PHO/EMBC)
	Action plans to protect the public for key scenarios	1) A Singular Large Public Exposure (Action Plan PHO/MOH) JEDC; Labour 2) A Wide Spread Hospital Exposure (Action Plan PHO/MOH) 3) A Community Base Organizational Exposure – School/College/University; Work Place; Church (Action Plan PHO/MOH) 4) A Wide Spread Localized Community Exposure (Action Plan PHO/MOH/EMBC)
Supporting Workplaces and Institutions to Prevent or Manage Covid-19	Provide general guidance for businesses and employers	1) How Do You Protect Your Staff? (Guidelines MOH) JIC 2) Routine Cleaning of the Work Place (Guidelines MOH) JIC 3) Preparedness and Continuity Planning (Guidelines MOH/EMBC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuity Planning for Businesses • Managing and Supporting Sick Staff – supporting staff to stay away from work when ill; not requiring a sick note; supporting staff through isolation/quarantine; working from home guidelines • Working Collaboratively with Unions
	Provide specific guidance for businesses	1) Public Facing Services and Businesses (JIC/EMBC/JEDC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Do You Protect Your Staff? (Guidelines MOH) • Routine Cleaning of Public Areas (Guidelines MOH/EMBC) • Managing Customers (Guidelines MOH/EMBC) 2) Guidance and Considerations for Business (JIC/EMBC/JEDC) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine Cleaning of Stores (Guidelines MOH/EMBC) • Rationing Essential Shopping Items (Guidelines MOH/EMBC) • Delivering to Customers in Isolation/Quarantine (Guidelines MOH/EMBC) • Supply Chain Management (Guidelines MOH/EMBC/JEDC/EMPR/AGRI) 3) Public Transportation (JIC/TRAN) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information to Customers for Safe Travel Practices (Guidelines MOH/EMBC/TRAN) • Increased Routine Cleaning of Vehicles and Stations to Prevent/Reduce Infection Spread (Guidelines MOH/EMBC)

	<p>Provide Institution Specific Guidance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information for taxis/rideshare and shuttles <p>4) Tourism (JIC/EMBC/TAC/Global Affairs Canada/Transport Canada)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hotels – Managing Your Customers (Guidelines MOH/EMBC) • Cruise Ship Season (Protocols and Guidelines PHO/MOH/EMBC) <p>5) Work Camps (EMBC/JEDC/AGR/EMPR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern and Interior (including summer agricultural workers) (Protocols and Guidelines (PHO/MOH/EMBC)) <hr/> <p>1) Municipalities (EMBC/MAH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation and action plans (Guidelines MOH/EMBC) <p>2) First Nation Communities (EMBC/MIRR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation and action plans (Guidelines MOH/EMBC) <p>3) Day Cares (MOH/MCFD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Do You Protect Your Staff? (Guidelines MOH/PHO) • Routine Cleaning of Day Care (Guidelines MOH/PHO) • Protecting Children from Infection (Guidelines MOH/PHO) • Communicating with Parents (Guidelines MOH/PHO) • Deciding to Close (Guidelines (MOH/PHO)) <p>4) Schools, Colleges and Universities (MOH/EDUC/AEST)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How Do You Protect Your Staff? (Guidelines MOH) • Routine Cleaning of Classrooms and Public Areas (Guidelines MOH) • Protecting Students (Guidelines MOH) • Communication with Parents (Guidelines MOH) • Deciding to Close (Guidelines PHO/MOH/ME/AEST) <p>5) Faith-Based Organizations (Guidelines MOH/PHO)</p> <p>6) Shelters / Tent cities / single residence occupation (MAH/SDPR)</p>
Government	Ensure continuity of government services and functions	<p>1) All ministries refresh and prepare to implement continuity plans (Action EMBC/CITZ/PSA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenario-based planning for workforce reduction (i.e. 40% at any given time) • Enhanced cleaning protocols (e.g. for front-line workers) • Apply guidelines as necessary
2. Protecting Vulnerable Citizens		

Focus	Objective	Actions
Support for More Vulnerable Populations	Messaging for target patient populations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) General and specific advice for older population and patients with chronic illnesses (Guidelines MOH/JIC) 2) General and specific advice to support homeless/street-based populations (Guidelines MOH/JIC/SDPR) 3) General and specific advice to children in care (MCFD)
	Communication and Support with Primary and Community Care	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Routine communication to primary care offices; community care providers and agencies, assisted living and long-term care providers (Action MOH) 2) Revise outbreak management protocol based on learnings from first site-based outbreak and to apply to seniors' service agencies; assisted living, and long term care (Action MOH) 3) Identify and open as required community assessment centres (Action MOH) 4) Include primary care and community care institutions in supply chain management (Action MOH)
	Increase access to virtual care and additional health support services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Introduce temporary fee codes to support elderly and comorbid in collaboration with MSC and DoBC (Decision MOH) 2) Pharmacare to modify dispensing rules as required to ensure adequate access to vulnerable patient populations and reduce need to visit a pharmacy (Decision MOH)
Specific Action to Protect Seniors in LTC	Application of Outbreak Protocol	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Consider activating actions under the outbreak protocol to all LTC facilities (Decision MOH)
ED and hospital wide protocols	Implement ED and hospital wide protocols to safely triage and separate anyone presenting with respiratory illness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) HAs implement site specific local protocols to work with patients with respiratory illnesses (Action MOH) 2) If volumes significantly increase implement differential pathways for patients with respiratory illnesses presenting at BC's 115 EDs to reduce nosocomial (hospital-acquired) infection (Regional/Local Action Plans MOH) 3) Be prepared to separate wards/ICU beds to keep respiratory patients away from all other patients, cohort of staff for patient care (Regional/Local Action Plans MOH) 4) HAs readiness to implement local protocols to manage a wide spread hospital exposure at each hospital site (Regional/Local Action Plans MOH)
3. Protecting Health Workers		
Focus	Objective	Actions

Communication	Promote best practice in hospitals, primary care and community care settings	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Best practice for health care workers – hospital, primary and community care sites (Guidelines MOH) 2) Best practices for first responders – police, fire, BCEHS, and other patient transfer partners (e.g. BCEHS, St. John’s Ambulance) (Guidelines MOH) 3) HAs implement local open and routine communication with health care union representatives (Action MOH)
Management	Implement supportive management practices to ensure best practice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) HAs implement local management best practices to support safe workforce practice (Action MOH) 2) Ministry, HAs, and HEABC work closely with health unions to promote and support best practices, respond to concerns and issues (Action MOH)
Health Care Worker Capacity	Support Programs/Sites that experience challenges during an outbreak	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Ministry and HAs in collaboration with health sector unions develop and implement plans as needed to bring additional health care worker capacity to sites that come under stress in the event of an outbreak (Action MOH): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local site level protocols are in place for redeployment • Community and regional protocols are in place for redeployment • Provincial response protocols are in place for redeployment including provisions with Professional Colleges for privileging and registration
4. Supporting Health Care Capacity		
Focus	Objective	Actions
Assessing Health System Capacity	Information at hand to respond to needs/issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Accurate bed data and occupancy for all hospitals (Data MOH) 2) Accurate information on ventilator capacity across province (Data MOH)
Supplies Capacity and Supply Chain Security	Ensure needed supplies for the health system	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Ministry of Health; Shared Services BC, and HEMBC work closely with PHAC to ensure key supplies (Action MOH) 2) Accurate information on key supplies (Data MOH) 3) Shared Services BC working with HAs implements a provincially coordinated approach to manage key supplies and supply chains (Action MOH) 4) Purchase additional testing machinery (Actioned MOH) 5) Purchase additional ventilator capacity (Decision MOH) 6) Ministry of Health, HAs, Shared Services BC, and HEMBC implement a whole-of-health system approach to supply management to include HAs; Primary, Specialist, and Community Care Providers including LTC/AL/HC providers (Action MOH)

		7) MoH Pharmaceutical Division works with HAs and Pharmacies to monitor medical supplies (Action MOH)
ED And In-Patient Hospital Bed Capacity	Readiness to implement functional protocols to create capacity if needed	1) HAs have in place site specific protocols to increase capacity in case of a community-outbreak (Action MOH): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discharging low risk patients • Deferring scheduled surgeries and procedures (in patient and if needed day patient surgeries); • Identification of surge capacity for new care spaces within hospitals and ensuring bed/equipment capacity to operationalize • Alternate site identification
Functional response plans for “sentinel events”	HAs prepared to take action in response to key sentinel events	1) HAs are prepared to respond to (Action MOH): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A singular large public exposure • A wide spread hospital exposure • A community based organizational exposure (e.g. work place, church population) • Specific wide spread localized virus activity

DEVELOPMENTS: Updated March 9th

- COVID-19 now has cases in over 100 countries, totalling approximately 105,590 confirmed cases, of which 80,860 are in China. The overall death toll currently stands at over 3,500.
- As of March 2, 2020, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) latest interim economic outlook has revised growth prospects for China down to 4.9% in 2020, following 6.1% in 2019. The OECD predicts global growth of 2.4% in 2020, down 0.5% from their previous forecasts. The estimated impact on Canada is reduced economic growth in 2020 from 1.6% to 1.3%.¹
- Under their base case scenario, McKinsey & Company predicts a 0.3 – 0.7 percentage point reduction in global GDP growth in 2020. The sectors expected to be impacted the longest are tourism and hospitality (back to normal Q4), aviation (Q3-Q4), automotive (Q3), oil and gas (Q3), consumer products (Q2), and, consumer electronics and semi-conductors (Q2).²
- There are concerns about the impact of coronavirus on the upcoming Olympics in Japan starting July 2020. Officials are planning to continue as normal but are watching the situation.
- Some airlines have already embarked on cost-cutting initiatives, including unpaid leave for staff, to cope with not only a hit from tourists, but from companies that have suspended business travel.

ISSUE:

In December 2019, the first outbreak of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 was reported in Wuhan, China. COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus that has not been previously identified in humans. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses found in both animals and humans. Some infect people and are known to cause illness ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

In 2003, a similar outbreak of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) virus had an estimated negative economic impact of \$50 billion on the global economy. The current COVID-19 outbreak has resulted in more fatalities than the 2003 SARS outbreak and has hit China during a time when its economy is vulnerable and much larger than it was in 2003.

SUMMARY:

There have been several reports and articles that discuss the potential economic impact of the COVID-19 globally and in China, Canada and British Columbia (B.C.) (**Appendix 1**)

The range of estimated economic impacts are:

- Globally: Reduction in predicted GDP growth by 0.3% to 2.4% for 2020.
- China: Revised predictions for GDP in 2020 to 4.9%, following 6.1% in 2019.
- Canada: Reduction in predicted GDP growth from 1.6% down to 1.3% for Canada. Revenue losses are expected for businesses and sectors reliant on Chinese markets and for supply

¹ OECD Interim Economic Assessment. <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/docserver/7969896b-en.pdf?expires=1583261995&id=id&accname=guest&checksum=A1D2CFEF70AEA7D9090008F7034CC19D>

² McKinsey and Company: Coronavirus COVID-19: Facts and Insight. <https://www.mckinsey.com/~/media/mckinsey/business%20functions/risk/our%20insights/covid%2019%20implications%20for%20business/covid-19-facts-and-insights-february-28-2020-mckinsey-vf.ashx>

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chain operations. Tourism will be impacted by fewer Chinese travellers, as well as fewer travellers generally as people become more cautious.

Overall impacts to Canadian and B.C. economies are focussed on areas of the economy such as:

- National and international supply chains impacts.
- Specific sectors that are likely to be most affected, including manufacturing, transportation and tourism.

Responses in place by B.C. and Canada include:

- Monetary stimulus from the Bank of Canada, by lowering its target interest rate by 0.5 percentage points to 1.25%
- Creation of a new Federal cabinet committee on March 4, 2020. The Cabinet Committee on the federal response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) will co-ordinate Canada's response to health and economic impacts.
- Development of British Columbia Pandemic Provincial Co-ordination Plan. On March 6, 2020, the Province appointed a deputy ministers' committee to oversee a whole-of-government approach to implementing the British Columbia Pandemic Provincial Co-ordination Plan. The deputy ministers' committee will be reporting directly to a new Cabinet Committee.

DISCUSSION:

In 2019, China's GDP was 17% of the world's total economic output; this is four times higher than China's 4% of global GDP in 2003. Building on the results of the 2003 SARS outbreak, estimates of the global economic impact of COVID-19 range from \$50B to \$360B.³ Closures of factories in China have created significant supply chain issues for many companies that rely on China for production operations.

So far, the impacts of COVID-19 on the global economy are expected to be short-term, with many economists expecting China and the globe to rebound in the rest of the fiscal year. This has been reinforced by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which is forecasting that the impact of the disease will be short-term, with the world economy expanding by 3.3% this year.⁴ China has already attempted to remedy the economic impacts using fiscal policy, both injecting capital by issuing additional loans and dropping key interest rates.

As of the week of February 24, 2020, global commodity prices been fluctuating with each day's news. Oil prices are down approximately 20 percent since early January as China is a leading consumer.⁵ The true economic impacts of the outbreak on the global economy have yet to be measured.

³ ODI: Economic vulnerability to the coronavirus: top countries at risk. <https://www.odi.org/blogs/16639-economic-vulnerabilities-coronavirus-top-countries-risk>

⁴ International Monetary Fund: Coronavirus risks dampening global growth: IMF Chief. <https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Coronavirus-outbreak/Coronavirus-risks-dampening-global-growth-IMF-chief>

⁵ Deloitte: Weekly global economic update. <https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/insights/economy/global-economic-outlook/weekly-update.html?id=us:2em:3pa:economic-outlook:eng:di:121719&nc=1>

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Canada

Nationally, Canada is feeling the economic impacts of the outbreak already, with commodity prices dropping in copper and oil and gas as much as 15%⁶, due to weaker global demand. Bloomberg Economics estimates Canada's first quarter growth will be down by 0.1%.⁷ In 2003,

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Statistics Canada reported 2019 fourth quarter growth at an annualized rate of 0.3%, depicting relatively weak economic conditions heading into 2020 and prior to the spread of COVID-19.⁹ On March 4, 2020, the Bank of Canada lowered its target for the overnight rate by 50 basis points to 1.25%.

Overall, Canada imports \$48.5 billion in goods from China annually, with over \$500 million in each of the electrical and electronics, plastics, iron and steel, glass and prefab building sectors.

The OECD estimates that, since 2005, the content of Chinese-made parts in Canadian transportation manufacturing has tripled.¹⁰ Delays in parts from China for Canadian manufacturers will likely result in reduced business operations and sales. According to the Royal bank of Canada (RBC) Copyright

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Canadian manufacturing sales were already down in December; Statistics Canada states that

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The construction industry is impacted, with 164 manufacturing facilities in Wuhan creating products often used by the global construction industry, including 13 plants that directly manufacture construction materials.

Global LNG prices have been impacted by a significant decrease in demand for oil and gas in the Chinese market. Travel bans and limited flights have also resulted in lower demand for oil and gas globally, hurting industries that are involved in transportation of goods and involved in the production of oil and gas.

⁶ Foreign Policy: Knock-On Effects of China's Coronavirus May Be Worse Than Thought. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/02/03/knock-on-effects-china-coronavirus-weak-economy-markets/>

⁷ Bloomberg: Charting the Global Economic Impact of the Coronavirus. <https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2020-global-economic-impact-of-wuhan-novel-coronavirus/>

⁸ OHSCanada: Canadian companies feel impact of coronavirus as it strikes across sectors. <https://www.ohscanada.com/canadian-companies-feel-impact-coronavirus-strikes-across-sectors/>

⁹ The Canadian Press: Statistics Canada says economic growth slowed to 0.3% annual pace in Q4. <https://www.timescolonist.com/statistics-canada-says-economic-growth-slowed-to-0-3-annual-pace-in-q4-1.24086303>

¹⁰ Globe and Mail: This outbreak's effect will be different than SARS. <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/commentary/article-coronavirus-effect-on-canadas-economy-will-be-different-from-sars/>

¹¹ Financial Post: Chance of Canadian supply-chain disruptions from coronavirus high: RBC.

<https://business.financialpost.com/news/economy/chance-of-canadian-supply-chain-disruptions-from-coronavirus-high-rbc>

¹² Statistics Canada. Table 16-10-0047-01 Manufacturers' sales, inventories, orders and inventory to sales ratios, by industry (dollars unless otherwise noted). <https://doi.org/10.25318/1610004701-eng>

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Canadian tourism has taken a hit as big-spending Chinese tourists are forced to stay home. Air Canada and all U.S. carriers have suspended service to China at this time. The Civil Aviation Administration of China has ordered Chinese carriers to make sure there are flights remaining on each approved international route following the majority of foreign carriers' suspension of their China flights. The airline industry in seeing a large reduction in revenue, the International Air Transport Association (IATA) estimates that COVID-19 will cost the industry between US\$63B and US\$113B in 2020.¹³

Canadian exports are feeling the effects of one of world's largest populations being on lockdown. From Nova Scotia, there are reports that lobster prices are down 20 per cent due to the collapse of the crucial Chinese market.

British Columbia

Context:

Provincially, B.C.'s exports to China are expected to be negatively impacted, especially goods used as intermediate products in manufacturing. In 2019, 14.9% (\$6.5B) of B.C.'s \$43.4B in international goods exports went to mainland China.

Of B.C.'s goods exports to mainland China, mining accounts for \$1.2B (16.3%), forestry accounts for \$3.4B (57.9%), energy products account for \$0.7B (10.7%), and machinery and equipment accounts for \$0.5B (5.9%).

Anecdotal:

Transportation – Marine

As of February 25th, 2020, the Canadian transport system is under pressure from nation-wide protests that have disrupted the movement of people and goods via rail lines. This has been further impacted by COVID-19 with decreased traffic from Asia, resulting in delays in shipment of goods to B.C.'s ports.¹⁴ While the Halifax Port has seen companies divert to US ports, and workers have been impacted, that has not yet happened at B.C. ports. If this backlog persists when Chinese exports resume there may be an added lag before B.C.'s business can resume to normal.

Transportation – Air

Less flights are going to and leaving from China (estimated 30-40% reduction) which has reduced the supply of cargo space. Freight forwarders are being charged 3 times the cost than before COVID-19.¹⁵ Air transportation accounted about 0.5% of Canada's GDP and 0.9% of B.C.'s GDP in 2018.

Exports

Exports from B.C. businesses have seen some reduced demand. This includes seasonal items, like B.C. wine which usually sees 80-90%¹⁶ of its demand from China during the Chinese New

¹³ International Air Transport Association (IATA) press release: <https://www.skiesmag.com/press-releases/iata-covid-19-financial-impacts/>

¹⁴ Vancouver Sun: Rail blockades deepen backlog at BC's ports. <https://vancouversun.com/news/rail-blockades-add-to-existing-backlog-at-b-c-ports>

¹⁵ Anecdotal: information sharing from the federal government.

¹⁶ Business in Vancouver: Coronavirus bears down on B.C. economy. <https://biv.com/article/2020/02/coronavirus-bears-down-bc-economy>

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Year. As well, B.C. wine exporters can expect a significant reduction in next year's order, as sellers will have unsold stock.

B.C. is seeing a reduction in demand for B.C. agri-foods exports. As Chinese consumers eat out less, orders for crab, clams, and prawns and other food exports are declining. According to the B.C. Seafood Alliance, B.C. sends about \$300 million of seafood to China annually, and orders have been cancelled as a result of the virus outbreak. Companies like Fanny Bay Oysters are hurting as 20% of their sales are to the Chinese market.¹⁷

Imports

Small and medium sized businesses that depend on imports from China are particularly hurt, as they have fewer resources to be able to diversify their supply chains. The regions in China that are most impacted by the virus account for more than 90% of Chinese exports. With these factories either shut or running at low capacity since January 31st, a reduction in Chinese imports to B.C. is expected to continue. Effects of this outbreak are likely to be felt in the short term, with longer term growth to continue in the rest of the fiscal year. If the outbreak continues, however, it could result longer term decreases in economic growth.

Manufacturing

Manufacturers in B.C. are experiencing the same impacts as other manufacturers in Canada, with delays in parts from China for Canada manufacturers resulting in reduced business operations and sales. There have been impacts to stock prices for B.C. companies as well. In late January, the stock price of ^{Copyright}

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With supply chains disrupted, many companies are looking for new sources for manufactured and intermediate goods to maintain operation. Domestic business could fill the supply shortage and expand business, at least temporarily.

Tourism

B.C.'s tourism industry should expect a reduction as travel bans and advisories persist for China. Currently it is difficult to measure the impact of COVID-19 on tourism in B.C. as it's the off-season. Bookings from China are usually made six weeks in advance,¹⁹ thus more information will be known towards March and April.

The Conference Board of Canada suggests that Chinese tourism spending will plunge by one-third this year, resulting in a \$550-million hit to the national economy during the first half of 2020. British Columbia will suffer the largest dollar impact of approximately \$240 million, while Prince Edward Island will experience the largest percentage hit.

¹⁷ Financial Post: How the coronavirus is being felt across Canada- from the chilly waters off B.C. to companies in Toronto. <https://business.financialpost.com/news/economy/how-the-coronavirus-is-being-felt-across-canada-from-the-chilly-waters-off-b-c-to-companies-in-toronto>

¹⁸ Financial Post: Canadian dollar, oil roiled as fear of coronavirus contagion spreads across global markets. <https://business.financialpost.com/news/economy/canadian-dollar-oil-roiled-as-fear-of-coronavirus-contagion-spreads-across-global-markets>

¹⁹ CityNews: Too early to tell impact of COVID-19 outbreak on Vancouver tourism. <https://www.citynews1130.com/2020/02/12/virus-tourism-sector/>

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Preliminary numbers for B.C. indicate that travel bookings from China to BC between February and October 2020 are down 61.5% compared to this time last year, Mexico is down 17.5% and Germany is down 9.3%. SARS experience has shown that the impact to tourism in Canada was swift and significant. In 2003, BC saw a drop of -20% in Asia-Pacific visitors. In 2020, China is BC's second largest international market (after the US).²⁰

Airport revenues from duty-free sales are estimated to be down 50% - this is an important source of revenue for airports. Vancouver International Airport (YVR) predicts 1.3M fewer travellers and a 5%-10% decline in revenue for 2020, due to multiple factors, including COVID-19.²¹

Restaurant Sales

In late January, businesses in B.C. felt the first wave of effects from COVID-19. The Chinese market draws its largest demand during Chinese New Year celebrations, but due to the virus, the government cancelled many celebrations and advised people to stay in. For local Chinese restaurants the reduced traffic amounted to a 30-70% reduction in sales.²²

Other

B.C. is impacted by the global LNG sector facing challenges with decreased demand and with Chinese firms^{Copyright}

^{Copyright} based on reduced output in factories.

It is estimated that every international student contributes \$20,000 to \$25,000 to the B.C. economy. China is UBC's second largest source of international students.²⁴ If the outbreak continues, future enrollment of international students in B.C.'s post-secondary institutions from China will likely drop. B.C. could see a slighter higher impact due to its much closer relationships around trading ties and demographics, compared to other Canadian provinces.

The Government of Canada, through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, is launching the Canadian 2019 Novel Coronavirus Rapid Research Funding Opportunity to contribute to global efforts to contain the 2019 Novel Coronavirus outbreak. Global Affairs Canada is supporting the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) that has recently launched a call for proposals to fast-track research for a vaccine against COVID-19. Canada understands the need to share best practices and scientific research in response to the current outbreak and to prepare for future such events.²⁵

²⁰ Destination BC internal reporting* and CBC: Booking from China down 70% says B.C. tourism organization.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bookings-from-china-down-70-bc-tourism-coronavirus-covid-19-1.5485493>

²¹ CBC: YVR predicts a decline of up to 1.3M travellers in 2020 amid coronavirus spread. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/yvr-predicts-a-decline-of-up-to-1-3m-travellers-in-2020-amid-coronavirus-spread-1.5483227>

²² Global News: Vancouver's Chinese-Canadian Business report up to 70% business drop amid virus fears.

<https://globalnews.ca/news/6560530/vancouver-chinatown-business-drop-coronavirus/>

²³ The Economist: How China's coronavirus epidemic could hurt the world economy. <https://www.economist.com/leaders/2020/02/13/how-chinas-coronavirus-epidemic-could-hurt-the-world-economy>

²⁴ Information sharing with the federal government

²⁵ Speaking notes: Federal government information sharing

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B.C. Indicators (Monthly)

	Latest Data Available	Current Value	Change (Year over Year)	Previous Year (2019)	Next Data Release
Goods Exports to China ²⁶	Jan 2020	\$443 Million	Jan 19/20: -\$89 Million (-16.7%)	\$6,478 Million	Apr 10, 2020
Goods Exports to Pacific Rim ²⁷	Jan 2020	\$1,008 Million	Jan 19/20: -\$240 Million (-19.2%)	\$16,051 Million	Apr 10, 2020
Manufacturing Sales ²⁸	Dec 2019	\$4,406 Million	Dec 18/19: -\$26.9 Million (-0.6%)	\$52,965 Million	Mar 17, 2020
Tourism from China ²⁹	Dec 2019	18,721 persons	Dec 18/19: -1,289 persons (-6.4%)	344,830 persons	Mar 23, 2020
International Visitor Arrivals from China ³⁰	Dec 2019	18,284 persons	Dec 18/19: -1,151 persons (-6.3%)	333,837 persons	Mar 23, 2020
Restaurant sales ³¹	Dec 2019	\$1,065 Million	Dec 18/19: +\$19.7 Million (+1.9%)	\$12,520 Million	Mar 23, 2020

Pacific Rim: Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Singapore, Laos, Mongolia, China, Indonesia, North Korea, South Korea, Philippines, Macau, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam, Australia, Fiji, New Zealand.

²⁶ BC Statistics. Trade Data, International Commodity Trade. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/statistics/business-industry-trade/trade/trade-data>

²⁷ BC Statistics. Trade Data, International Commodity Trade. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/data/statistics/business-industry-trade/trade/trade-data>

²⁸ Statistics Canada. Table 16-10-0048-01 Manufacturing sales by industry and province, monthly (dollars unless otherwise noted) (x 1,000). <https://doi.org/10.25318/1610004801-eng>

²⁹ Statistics Canada. Table 24-10-0003-01 Non-resident travellers entering Canada, by country of residence (excluding the United States) <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/t1/tbl1/en/tv.action?pid=2410000301>

³⁰ Destination BC. <https://www.destinationbc.ca/content/uploads/2020/02/International-Visitor-Arrivals-December-2019.pdf>

³¹ Statistics Canada. Table 21-10-0019-01 Monthly survey of food services and drinking places (x 1,000) <https://doi.org/10.25318/2110001901-eng>

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APPENDIX 1:

Below is a collection of reports, articles and documents of reference related to the economic impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak:

Source:	Type of Impacts:	Estimated Impacts:
B.C. Impacts		
Global News: Coronavirus economic impacts offers lesson for Canadian businesses: Expert. (Feb 9, 2020) https://globalnews.ca/news/6522284/coronavirus-economic-impact-canadian-business/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small and medium sized businesses impacted by decreased imports 	Minimal impact to Canada's economic growth for 2020.
The Globe and Mail: Canadian dollar climbs to one-week high as virus fears ebb. (Feb 12, 2020) https://www.theglobeandmail.com/investing/markets/inside-the-market/market-news/article-canadian-dollar-climbs-to-one-week-high-as-virus-fears-ebb/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recovering global stock markets 	Economic growth should continue as virus outbreak subsides.
Business in Vancouver: Coronavirus bears down on B.C. economy. (Feb 5, 2020) https://biv.com/article/2020/02/coronavirus-bears-down-bc-economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in imports of foods and wine Travel and tourism 	Long terms effects of reduced Chinese New Year celebrations, reduced local public consumption.
CBC: 'Business as usual,' says Richmond Chamber of Commerce as coronavirus lands in B.C. (Jan 30, 2020) https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/business-as-usual-in-richmond-coronavirus-1.5446272	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Export delays Increase in imports Local service demand 	Delays in goods coming to Canada, increase in online exports to China, 5-15% decrease in foot traffic local businesses.
CityNews: Too early to tell impact of COVID-19 outbreak on Vancouver tourism. (Feb 12, 2020) https://www.citynews1130.com/2020/02/12/virus-tourism-sector/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism industry Service industry 	Reduced bookings from Chinese tourists, increase in cancelations going into peak travel season.
Global News: Coronavirus economic impact being felt in BC. (Feb 6, 2020) https://globalnews.ca/video/6513860/coronavirus-economic-impact-being-felt-in-b-c#autoplay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agrifoods exports (crab, clams, wine) Local demand 	\$50 million hit to B.C. economy in 2020, local Chinese restaurants demand.
Global News: Vancouver's Chinese-Canadian Business report up to 70% business drop amid virus fears. (Feb 17, 2020) https://globalnews.ca/news/6560530/vancouver-chinatown-business-drop-coronavirus/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service industry 	Food service industry reporting a 70% drop in sales, compared to same time as last year.
OHSCanada: Canadian companies feel impact of coronavirus as it strikes across sectors. (Feb 14, 2020) https://www.ohscanada.com/canadian-companies-feel-impact-coronavirus-strikes-across-sectors/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retail industry Manufacturing industry Insurance industry 	Canadian companies feeling the pinch, but not yet as bad as it was in 2003 SARs outbreak. SARs cost Canada \$5.25 billion and 28,000 jobs.
Financial Post: How the coronavirus is being felt across Canada- from the chilly waters off B.C. to companies in Toronto. (Jan 30, 2020) https://business.financialpost.com/news/economy/how-the-coronavirus-is-being-felt-across-canada-from-the-chilly-waters-off-b-c-to-companies-in-toronto	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seafood exports Travel and Tourism Commodity prices 	Seafood exports from B.C. are about \$300 million annually to China. Sales are reported to be down by 20%.

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Source:	Type of Impacts:	Estimated Impacts:
National Post: Canada's no good, very bad fourth quarter might be even worse than expected. (Feb 18, 2020) https://nationalpost.com/news/economy/factory-sales-unexpectedly-drop-in-canada-to-cap-poor-year/wcm/06ebe71b-997b-4097-bc87-8773d0eee690?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=organic_fb_tw&utm_campaign=broadsheet_promo#Echobox=1582051191	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aerospace manufacturing Automotive manufacturing 	Drop in 6.8 % in motor vehicle shipments, along with a 16% decline in aerospace products. Sales were down in 11 of 21 industries, representing 43% of the Canadian manufacturing sector, compared to the same time last year.
Vancouver Sun: Rail blockades deepen backlog at BC's ports. (Feb 24, 2020) https://vancouver.sun.com/news/rail-blockades-add-to-existing-backlog-at-b-c-ports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply chain 	Ports affected by blockades and reduced traffic from Asia.
Globe and Mail: Global travel industry battered by growing virus fears. (Feb 28, 2020) https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/article-coronavirus-fears-are-hitting-the-travel-industry-hard-canada-will/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism 	Chinese tourism spending will plunge by one-third this year, resulting in a \$550-million hit to the economy during the first half of 2020. B.C. will suffer the largest dollar impact.
Financial Post: Canadian dollar, oil roiled as fear of coronavirus contagion spreads across global markets. (Feb 27, 2020) https://business.financialpost.com/news/economy/canadian-dollar-oil-roiled-as-fear-of-coronavirus-contagion-spreads-across-global-markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply chain Commodity prices 	Reduced GDP in Canada of 0.1% in 2020.
CBC: YVR predicts a decline of up to 1.3M travellers in 2020 amid coronavirus spread. https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/yvr-predicts-a-decline-of-up-to-1-3m-travellers-in-2020-amid-coronavirus-spread-1.5483227	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism 	Decline of 1.3 million travellers through YVR and 5-10% decline in YVR revenue for 2020.
CBC: Booking from China down 70% says B.C. tourism organization. (Mar 4, 2020) https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/bookings-from-china-down-70-bc-tourism-coronavirus-covid-19-1.5485493	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism 	Bookings from China to B.C. are down 70% Compared to a year ago.
CBC: Businesses in B.C. 'feeling the pinch' of coronavirus outbreak on global markets. (Mar 4, 2020) https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/businesses-in-b-c-feeling-the-pinch-of-coronavirus-outbreak-on-global-markets-1.5486177	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manufacturing Tourism 	B.C.'s tourism industry predicted to have \$250 million in lost revenue in 2020.
Canada Impacts		
Globalnews: Coronavirus will 'undoubtedly' hit Canadian and global economies, says Morneau. (Feb 10, 2020) https://globalnews.ca/news/6530512/coronavirus-economic-impact-bill-morneau/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply chain Commodity prices Manufacturing 	Reduced global economic output by 0.4% in 2020.

Source:	Type of Impacts:	Estimated Impacts:
CBC: Morneau warns that coronavirus will have a 'real' impact on Canadian economy. (Feb 10, 2020) https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/coronavirus-morneau-economic-impact-1.5458173	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Price of exports like oil drop Supply chain Fiscal position 	Real, significant impacts focused on tourism, oil sector and supply chains.
CBC: As Chinese manufacturers struggle due to COVID-19, local businesses pick up slack. (Feb 25, 2020) https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/as-chinese-manufacturers-struggle-due-to-covid-19-local-businesses-pick-up-slack-1.5471655	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply chain Manufacturing Local business 	Opportunities for local businesses to fulfill supply shortages as exports from China are delayed.
The Canadian Press: Statistics Canada says economic growth slowed to 0.3% annual pace in Q4. (Feb 28, 2020) https://www.timescolonist.com/statistics-canada-says-economic-growth-slowed-to-0-3-annual-pace-in-q4-1.24086303	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic slowdown Interest cuts 	Slow 4 th quarter growth (0.3% annualized) indicates weak economy leading up to coronavirus and therefore likely rate cuts coming.
Financial Post: Chance of Canadian supply-chain disruptions from coronavirus high: RBC. (Feb 27, 2020) https://business.financialpost.com/news/economy/chance-of-canadian-supply-chain-disruptions-from-coronavirus-high-rbc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply chain 	Roughly 10 per cent of unfinished products used to make final goods here in Canada are sourced from China.
Bank of Canada: Bank of Canada lowers overnight rate target to 1 ¼ percent. (March 4, 2020) https://www.bankofcanada.ca/2020/03/fad-press-release-2020-03-04/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank rate is now 1.25% 	The Bank cited several factors in taking this action, such as; drop in commodity prices; depreciation of the Canadian dollar; repricing in global markets, making financial conditions less accommodating; business and consumer confidence is likely to fall, and lower interest rates can boost investment and spending.
China Impacts		
Foreign Policy: Knock-On Effects of China's Coronavirus May Be Worse Than Thought. (Feb 3, 2020) https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/02/03/knock-on-effects-china-coronavirus-weak-economy-markets/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism Supply chain Commodity prices Retail and manufacturing 	Reduced GDP growth in China. Decreased growth in first quarter, return of growth the rest of the fiscal year.
CBC: Coronavirus could be the global shock that economist have feared: Don Pittis. (Feb 11, 2020) https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/coronavirus-economy-canada-1.5458155	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manufacturing Tourism 	Reduced GDP growth in China by 2% or more in the first quarter of this year.
Globe and Mail: This outbreak's effect will be different than SARS. (Feb 18, 2020) https://www.theglobeandmail.com/business/commentary/article-coronavirus-effect-on-canadas-economy-will-be-different-from-sars/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GDP growth Exports Manufacturing 	Reduce real GDP growth by 0.3 percentage points annualized in the first quarter of 2020.

Source:	Type of Impacts:	Estimated Impacts:
CNBC: JPMorgan sees China's economy growing 15% in second quarter as it recovers from coronavirus. (Feb 26, 2020) https://www.cnbc.com/2020/02/26/jpmorgan-china-gdp-up-15percent-in-q2-after-negative-coronavirus-driven-q1.html	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First quarter contraction 	First quarter growth down to 4% then 15% growth in quarter two rebound.
Global Impacts		
World Health Organization : Coronavirus disease (COVID-2019) situation reports (March 9, 2020) https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counts of COVID-19 cases 	105,586 Cases, of which 80,859 in China; over 3,500 deaths
Bloomberg: Charting the Global Economic Impact of the Coronavirus. (Feb 4, 2020) https://www.bloomberg.com/graphics/2020-global-economic-impact-of-wuhan-novel-coronavirus/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply chain • Manufacturing • Logistics operations 	China's first-quarter GDP growth may slip to 4.5% year on year, a drop from 6% in the final quarter of 2019.
International Monetary Fund: Coronavirus risks dampening global growth: IMF Chief. (Feb 2, 2020) https://asia.nikkei.com/Spotlight/Coronavirus-outbreak/Coronavirus-risks-dampening-global-growth-IMF-chief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufacturing • Supply chain • Travel • Tourism 	Global economy to still expand at 3.3% this year.
The New York Times: SARS Stung the Global Economy. The Coronavirus Is a Greater Menace. (Feb 3, 2020) https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/03/business/economy/SARS-coronavirus-economic-impact-china.html	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply chain • Manufacturing 	Reduced global economic growth by 0.2%, to an annual rate of 2.3% for 2020.
ODI (Overseas Development Institute): Economic vulnerability to the coronavirus: top countries at risk. (Feb 5, 2020) https://www.odi.org/blogs/16639-economic-vulnerabilities-coronavirus-top-countries-risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade • Travel bans and flight cancellations • Commodity prices 	Cost to the global economy of up to \$360 billion in 2020.
CNN: The coronavirus is already hurting the world economy. Here's why it could get really scary. (Feb 10, 2020) https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/08/business/coronavirus-global-economy/index.html	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supply chain • Luxury goods market • Capital injections • Interest rate cuts 	If factories re-open soon the impact would be minimal, if not the damage would increase rapidly.
The Economist: How China's coronavirus epidemic could hurt the world economy. (Feb 13, 2020) https://www.economist.com/leaders/2020/02/13/how-chinas-coronavirus-epidemic-could-hurt-the-world-economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNG, Copper Imports • Supply Chain • Manufacturing 	Provinces accounting 90% exports have factories shut or low output, follow similar path to SARS outbreak.
Business Financial Post: Virus outbreak knocks four Asia-bound LNG tankers off course-sources. (Feb 13, 2020) https://business.financialpost.com/pmnbusiness-pmn/virus-outbreak-knocks-four-asia-bound-lng-tankers-off-course-sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNG industry and oil and gas industry 	LNG ships have been halted from delivering to China and has caused LNG prices to a record low of below \$3 per million MMBtu.
New York Times: Coronavirus Stalls Milan, Italy's Economic Engine. (Feb 24, 2020) https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/24/world/europe/24coronavirus-milan-italy.html	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed schools, businesses • Manufacturing • Service Industry 	Reduce Italy's GDP by 0.3%. Disrupting Italy's economic engine in the north.

Source:	Type of Impacts:	Estimated Impacts:
Reuters: G20 finance heads eye impact of coronavirus outbreak on growth, see modest pickup. (Feb 23, 2020) https://www.reuters.com/article/us-g20-saudi-virus/g20-finance-heads-eye-impact-of-coronavirus-outbreak-on-growth-see-modest-pickup-idUSKCN20H0HX	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loosening monetary policy Easing trade tensions 	Shave 0.1% off global growth. China's economy will return to normal in the second quarter of 2020, growth to resume modestly in 2020 and 2021.
IMF: Remarks by IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva to G20 on Economic Impact of COVID-19. (Feb 22, 2020) https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2020/02/22/pr2061-remarks-by-kristalina-georgieva-to-g20-on-economic-impact-of-covid-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply chain Monetary policy shifts 	Global economy growth down 0.1% in 2020, and China down 0.4%.
The Guardian: Coronavirus: air travel demand 'will fall for first time in 11 years'. (Feb 21, 2020) https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/feb/21/coronavirus-air-travel-demand-to-fall-for-first-time-in-11-years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Airline Industry 	Airline Industry will drop 4.7% in 2020, losing US \$29.3bn in revenue, of which \$27.8bn will be in the Asia Pacific region.
Deloitte: Weekly global economic update. (Feb 24, 2020) https://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/insights/economy/global-economic-outlook/weekly-update.html?id=us:2em:3pa:economic-outlook:eng:di:121719&nc=1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slowing growth Rising prices for air freight Travel reduction 	Air freight rates have tripled in China. Cancellations worldwide in tourism industry.
OECD: Global economy faces gravest threat since the crisis as coronavirus spreads. (Mar 2, 2020) http://www.oecd.org/economy/global-economy-faces-gravest-threat-since-the-crisis-as-coronavirus-spreads.htm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slowing global growth 	Growth prospects for China have been revised down sharply to below 5% this year after 6.1% in 2019.
Politico: Feds slashes rates in emergency response to coronavirus. (March 3, 2020) https://www.politico.com/news/2020/03/03/trump-fed-economy-coronavirus-119372	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lower interest rates by half a % point. 	Looking at measures aimed at small business as well as bank regulators about easing rules for lenders. Lower rates can boost investment and spending, but the central bank recognizes the limits of the lever, such as fixing a broken supply chain.

Cascading Economic Impacts on BC: Global Coronavirus (COVID-19) Outbreak

CONTEXT

- Cases of COVID-19 have now been reported in over 100 countries, with no indication that the outbreak has peaked.
- COVID-19 is one of many factors negatively impacting the economy, which also include slower underlying growth, rail blockades, and diplomatic tensions.
- The range of estimated impacts from COVID-19 to GDP growth are:
 - Globally: Reduction in predicted GDP growth by 0.3 percentage points to 2.4 percentage points for 2020.
 - China: Revised predictions for GDP in 2020 to 4.9%, following 6.1% in 2019 (OECD; March 2, 2020).
 - Canada: Reduction in predicted GDP growth from 1.6% down to 1.3% in 2019 (OECD; March 2, 2020).
- In addition, there are studies that develop scenarios to estimate the range of potential impacts:
 - McKinsey's base-case prediction of economic impacts (Feb 27, 2020) is a 0.3-0.7 percentage point reduction in global GDP growth in 2020, with some recovery beginning in Q3.
 - Economic modelling of seven different scenarios by the Brookings Institution estimates GDP impacts to Canada of -0.2% (epidemiological events are isolated to China) to -7.1% (high degree of epidemiological and economic impacts), or losses of US\$3B to US\$128B. Estimated global GDP losses are US\$283B to US\$9,170B in the most extreme scenario.
- In 2003, the SARs pandemic cost Canada's economy an approximate 0.6 percentage point (annualized basis) hit to GDP growth that was limited to Q2-2003. The estimated impact to Canada's level of GDP for 2003 was just over 0.1%.
- The COVID-19 outbreak has the potential to be more impactful on Canada than SARs, due to increased globalization since 2003, and the greater geographical spread of COVID-19. Specific sectors in Canada that are likely to be most affected are manufacturing, transportation and tourism.
- BC is a small, open economy that relies on interaction, trade, and investment with the world to sustain and grow its economic prosperity.
- In an environment of economic and financial uncertainty, a weaker Canadian dollar and lower interest rates help to reduce negative impacts on the economy.
- Businesses in BC are primarily small businesses (less than 50 employees), and break down as follows:
 - Small businesses (0 – 49 employees): 98.4%;
 - Medium businesses (50 – 299 employees): 1.5%;
 - Large businesses (300+ employees): 0.1%.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA

Industrial Activity in China

- China accounted for 17% of the world's total economic output (Gross Domestic Product) in 2019.
- China is BC's second largest trading partner accounting for \$6.5 billion (15% of total) goods exports.
- China's emissions have declined substantially (estimates range from one-quarter to one-third), suggesting a significant decline in industrial activity.

Negative Economic Impact	Context	Negative Cascading Impacts to BC Economy
REDUCED Economic activity in China (Asia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slowed economic activity in China requires fewer inputs to production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ↓ Demand for BC exports (pulp, lumber, coal, copper) • ↓ Demand / hours for resource workers • ↓ Chinese investment interest / activity in BC • ↓ Cargo sailings or cancellations at Vancouver ports
INCREASED Costs or delays for BC industrial projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNG Canada, Coastal Gas Link, Site C, and Trans Mountain projects may be relying on Chinese manufactured components for their projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ↑ Potential for project delays • ↑ Potential project cost • ↓ [Potential] Demand / hours for resource workers
REDUCED Business operations due to supply chain issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wuhan is known for producing metal products, mechanical equipment and solar panels as well as electrical and electronics manufacturing • B.C. manufacturers are not yet seeing a major impact (Feb 20th) but experts expect it will – especially in electronics and pharmaceuticals • There were 164 manufacturing facilities in Wuhan creating products often used by the global construction industry, including 13 plants that directly manufacture construction materials • Domestic business may have the opportunity to fill the supply shortage and expand business, at least temporarily 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ↓ Stability in supply chains results in companies looking for new sources for manufactured and intermediate goods to maintain operation. • ↑ Costs of materials, and potential production disruptions

Retail and Wholesale Trade

- Regions in China most impacted by the coronavirus account for more than 90% of Chinese exports.
- Household consumption in BC accounted for \$171 billion in 2018, contributing 1.43% of the 2.56% GDP growth that year – i.e., household consumption accounted for 56% of GDP growth.

Negative Economic Impact	Context	Negative Cascading Impacts to BC Economy
REDUCED Retail and personal expenditure in BC economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fewer imported products are available to consumers • Reduction in availability of goods leads to reduced overall household consumption in BC, which would slow economic growth • The Bank of Canada has cut interest rates in an effort to encourage spending 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ↓ Availability of goods for BC consumers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anecdotal note of potential shortage in retail apparel for Aug-Oct • ↓ Small business activity leading to reduced hours or layoff of employees, and possible bankruptcy • ↓ Demand for transportation and other logistics services that move imported goods • ↑ Inflation for some consumer goods • ↓ Sales tax and personal income tax revenues

Agriculture and Food Sector

- Agriculture and food exports to China have been growing, with China accounting for nearly 10% of BC's total agriculture and food exports in 2019.
- In 2019, over 90% of agriculture and food exports went to 5 markets; the US (73%), China (10%), Japan (5%), the EU (2%) and South Korea (2%).
- Agriculture and food products that are sensitive to Chinese demand are experiencing softening in prices. In addition, both shipments and supply chains may be impacted given travel restrictions and work disruptions at ports. However, as of March 4th, disruptions at China's ports have started to clear up.

Negative Economic Impact	Context	Negative Cascading Impacts to BC Economy
REDUCED Agricultural expenditure/exports from BC to China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slower economic activity in China reduces demand • Under the recently-signed US-China trade deal, China has committed to importing tens of billions worth of agricultural products from the US 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ↓ Demand for BC agriculture and food exports • ↓ Demand / hours for agriculture and food manufacturing workers • ↓ Demand for transportation and other logistics services that move exported goods • ↓ Demand for BC agriculture and food products could be amplified if China prioritizes imports from the US

Travel Tourism

- China is BC's second largest source of tourism, with over 300,000 visitors in 2019.
- BC's largest source of overnight international visitors is the US, accounting for nearly two-thirds (3.98 million) of BC's 2019 overnight international visitors.
- During Summer 2019 there were 60 weekly flights between China and YVR.
- Vancouver had 1,091,900 cruise ship passengers (on an estimated 290 ships) over the 2019 season; the 2020 cruise ship season starts on April 2, 2020.

- Victoria had over 709,000 cruise ship passengers in 2019 (on an estimated 260 ships) over the 2019 season; the 2020 season starts on April 3, 2020.
- The Conference Board Winter 2020 Provincial Outlook Summary (released Feb 27) estimates a potential reduction in tourism spending by around \$550 million in the first half of 2020 for Canada as a whole, with the largest dollar impact to be felt in BC (about \$240 million).
- During the 2002-03 SARS outbreak, traveller volumes to Canada decreased 20%. Since that time, the number of travellers to Canada from China has increased seven-fold. The magnitude of actual impacts will depend on the extent of the outbreak globally and within Canada.

Negative Economic Impact	Context	Negative Cascading Impacts to BC Economy
REDUCED Air business travel from China (Asia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancelled direct flights between Vancouver to Beijing and Shanghai • Concerns about virus transmission while travelling by air • Preference to stay close to home / concerns about being unable to return home • 50% YTD reduction in air travel to mainland China from YVR • YVR predicts 1.3M fewer travellers and 5%-10% decline in revenue for 2020, due to multiple factors, including COVID-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ↓ Demand for convention services • ↓ Investment interest / activity in BC • ↓ Demand for aviation fuel • ↓ Airport authority revenues • ↓ Airline revenues • ↓ Demand / hours for airport workers • ↓ Demand for ancillary travel services and the demand / hours for employees of these businesses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transport (taxi, Uber, car rental) ○ Accommodation (hotel) ○ Retail, restaurant and bar • ↑ Travel insurance premiums as a result of payouts for cancellations
REDUCED Air leisure travel from China (Asia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancelled direct flights between Vancouver to Beijing and Shanghai • Concerns about virus transmission while travelling by air • Preference to stay close to home / concerns about being unable to return home • 50% YTD reduction in air travel to mainland China from YVR • YVR predicts 1.3M fewer travellers and 5%-10% decline in revenue for 2020, due to multiple factors, including COVID-19 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ↓ Demand for aviation fuel • ↓ Airport authority revenues • ↓ Airline revenues • ↓ Demand / hours for airport workers • ↓ Demand for ancillary travel services and the demand / hours for employees of these businesses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transport (taxi, Uber, car rental) ○ Accommodation (hotel, Air B&B) ○ Retail, restaurant and bar ○ Tourist sites and tour activities • ↑ Travel insurance premiums as a result of payouts for cancellations

Negative Economic Impact	Context	Negative Cascading Impacts to BC Economy
REDUCED Cruise ship leisure tourism on BC coast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about virus transmission while on a cruise ship Concerns about being quarantined on a ship Anecdotal reports of cruise bookings being cancelled or postponed Passenger restrictions and changes to Asia itineraries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential positive impact as Asia route cancellations result in added calls at BC ports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ Port authority revenues ↓ Demand for port services (fuel, electricity, water) ↓ Demand / hours for port workers ↓ Demand for ancillary travel services and the demand / hours for employees of these businesses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport (taxi, Uber, car rental) Accommodation (hotel, Air B&B) Retail, restaurant and bar Tourist sites and tour activities
REDUCED Visitation to BC from the US	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns about virus transmission while travelling by air Preference to stay close to home / concerns about being unable to return home Potential cancellations of meetings and events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ Demand for all aspects of BC's tourism sector from BC's largest market <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport (taxi, Uber, car rental) Accommodation (hotel, Air B&B) Retail, restaurant and bar Tourist sites and tour activities ↑ Employee layoffs and business bankruptcies
REDUCED General leisure tourism visitation to BC from all origins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fear of potential for contagion while travelling Preference to stay close to home / concerns about being unable to return home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ Demand for all aspects of BC's tourism sector ↑ Employee layoffs and business bankruptcies

International Students

- International students are a source of revenue for school districts, post-secondary institutions, and language schools.
- In 2018, BC's post-secondary institutions and K-12 schools were home to over 171,000 international students with study permits.

Negative Economic Impact	Context	Negative Cascading Impacts to BC Economy
REDUCED Volume of international students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel restrictions may limit ability of international students to come to BC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ Demand for BC education services ↓ Revenues for school districts and post-secondary schools could impact overall budgets ↓ Demand at language schools could impact revenues and operations ↓ Demand for host families impacts household incomes and leads to less consumer spending

POTENTIAL GOVERNMENT ACTION

British Columbia

Provincially, government could examine opportunities to reduce costs on businesses that are most impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak.

This includes mechanisms such as:

- Subsidy or rebates for business utility bills;
- Low interest loans to small businesses affected;
- Property tax relief for businesses.

Other actions could include operational supports to business, such as:

- Resources and/or matching services to help businesses find alternative suppliers;
- Lack of penalties on late remittances;
- Increased tax credits for companies making investments in their business;
- Wage assistance to help ease potential cash flow constraints.

Actions could also extend beyond business supports to include:

- Personal income tax cuts;
- Continued investments in infrastructure; particularly in smaller or short-term projects that are relatively quick to mobilize;
- More generous sick leave benefits for individuals infected;
- Increasing child care supports for individuals infected.

OTHER JURISDICTIONS ACTION

Canada

In response to impacts on the economy from coronavirus, the Bank of Canada lowered its target for the overnight rate by 50 basis points to 1.25% on March 4. The Bank also indicated that, if needed, it would make further monetary policy adjustments to support economic growth and maintain the target inflation rate.

The Bank cited several factors in taking this action, including:

- Drop in commodity prices;
- Depreciation of the Canadian dollar;
- Repricing in global markets, making financial conditions less accommodative;
- Anticipated declines in business and consumer confidence.

On March 4th, the Federal government created a new cabinet committee called The Cabinet Committee on the federal response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), to co-ordinate Canada's response.

The committee membership includes:

- Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland (Chair);
- President of the Treasury Board Jean-Yves Duclos;
- Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry Navdeep Bains;
- Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages Melanie Joly;
- Minister of Health Patty Hajdu;
- Minister of Public Safety Bill Blair;
- Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion Carla Qualtrough;

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- Minister of Finance Bill Morneau;
- Deputy government House Leader Kirsty Duncan (core participant, not official member).

This committee will focus on the wellbeing and safety of all Canadians and will complement the work being done by the Incident Response Group. It will meet regularly to ensure whole-of-government leadership, coordination, and preparedness for a response to the health and economic impacts of the virus.

International

The following is a summary of actions taken by other countries and jurisdictions in relation to the economic impacts of COVID-19:

Country	Fiscal Response
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocation for outbreak relief – cutting unnecessary government expenses • Reduction in corporate taxes • Waiving tax on overtime income earned by medical workers and offering cash and free transport to workers
United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Reserve reduced interest rates by half a percentage point to between 1% and 1.25% on March 3, 2020 to bolster against the effects of the coronavirus • Looking at measures for small business as well as talking to bank regulators about easing rules for lenders
Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A \$1,280 one-time cash handout to all permanent residents • Low-interest loans with government guarantees for small business • Reduction in corporate and salary taxes and subsidies for utility bills
Italy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax credits for companies that reported a 25% drop in revenues • Tax cuts and extra cash for the health system
Japan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$93.9 million fiscal stimulus to fight economic impacts of COVID-19
Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gift vouchers and other financial support for households • US\$9.8 billion in stimulus • Tax incentives for landlords who lower rent for small merchants affected by the virus
Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cash aid for affected companies • Monthly allowance for doctors and medical staff • Discount on electricity bills for some businesses • Deferral of business income tax payments and tax breaks for tourism sectors
Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$112 million for the aviation sector and a property tax rebate for Singapore Airport • Corporate tax rebates and delay in the planned rise in GST

TD Bank: Update on COVID-19 Impacts on the Economic outlook. (March 2, 2020) <https://economics.td.com/ca-covid19-update>

Draft Agenda for Ministers CoVid – March 12, 2020

1. Status update
 - Health – Stephen
 - ROG – Lori
2. Approach to Communications
3. Actions to minimize spread
 - Decisions to be made (from DM meeting previous day)
4. Economic Impacts
 - Preliminary perspective
 - Actions to maintain business confidence
5. Impact on workers
 - Private sector
 - Measures to address the impacts of quarantine or self-isolation on vulnerable workers where the need for income may outweigh the importance of staying home
 - Push federal govt on employment insurance changes
 - Public sector
 - CoVid-specific changes to sick pay provisions
6. Summary of priorities for FPT meetings March 12/13 (from DM meetings previous day)
7. Items requiring further analysis/development

Summary of Emergency Program Act and Public Health Act (pertaining to health concerns)

Emergency Program Act

What is it?

Introduced in 1993 and administered by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, the *Emergency Program Act (EPA)* provides the legislative framework for the management of disasters and emergencies in BC. Under the *EPA*, the Minister responsible for the Act has a number of duties and powers, including preparing emergency plans, entering into agreements, conducting training and exercising programs, and reviewing and recommending modifications to local government plans. [Note that government is currently reviewing the *EPA*, and has been working toward introduction of legislation supporting a modernized framework for disaster risk management and emergency management in Fall, 2020.]

What defines an emergency?

The definition of an emergency under the *EPA* is limited to a present or imminent event caused by fire, explosion, technical failure or the forces of nature and requires prompt coordinated action or special regulation to protect the health, safety, or welfare of a person or to limit damage to property. The *EPA* has guided the province through events such as Kelowna Interface fires in 2003, the Johnson's Landing landslide in 2012, and the Grand Forks flooding in 2018; the powers of the Act have largely been used in situations where emergencies originate in natural or human-caused events that have a range of impacts on citizens, businesses, communities, the environment, and infrastructure.

Under the *EPA*, the Minister responsible for the Act or the Lieutenant Governor in Council may declare a provincial state of emergency for no more than 14 days if it is deemed that an emergency exists or is imminent and an extraordinary power under the Act is required. This period can be extended beyond 14 days by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Similarly, a local authority (e.g. municipal council), may declare a state of local emergency of no more than seven days, if the body deems that an emergency exists or is imminent. This period can be extended beyond seven days upon request to the Minister responsible for the Act or the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

What powers are available during an emergency?

After a declaration of a state of provincial emergency, the *EPA* provides that the Minister responsible may do all acts and implement all procedures that the Minister considers necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or a disaster, including to:

- 1) Implement a provincial emergency plan or measures;
- 2) Authorize or require a local authority to implement a local emergency plan or measures;
- 3) Acquire or use any land or personal property considered necessary to respond to the emergency;
- 4) Authorize or require any qualified person to provide assistance to others to respond to the emergency;
- 5) Control or prohibit travel to or from any area of BC;
- 6) Provide for the restoration of essential facilities and the distribution of essential supplies;

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- 7) Provide, maintain, and coordinate emergency medical, welfare, and other essential services in BC;
- 8) Cause the evacuation of persons and the removal of livestock, animals, and personal property from any area of BC affected by the emergency, and make arrangements for their adequate care and protection;
- 9) Authorize the entry into any building or on any land, without warrant, by any person in the course of implementing an emergency plan, if the Minister considers necessary;
- 10) Cause the demolition or removal of any trees, structures, or crops, if the Minister considers necessary;
- 11) Construct something that the Minister considers necessary to respond to the emergency; and
- 12) Procure, fix prices for, or ration food, clothing, fuel, equipment, medical supplies, or other essential supplies and the use of any property, services, resources, or equipment within any part of BC.

The declaration of a state of local emergency provides that the local authority may do all acts and implement all procedures that the local authority considers necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or a disaster, including to:

- Implement its local emergency plan or measures;
- Exercise many of the same powers available to the Minister responsible for the Act during a state of emergency (i.e. #3-12 above) within the jurisdictional area affected by the local declaration; and
- Delegate, in writing, any of the powers available to the Minister (inclusive of #3-12 presented above) responsible for the Act to any persons involved in the operation of a local emergency plan.
- Note that the Minister may order a local authority to refrain or desist, either generally or in respect of any matter, from exercising any power.
- By bylaw ratified by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, but without obtaining approval or assent of the electors, a local authority may borrow any money necessary to pay expenses caused by the emergency.

In addition, the EPA provides that whether or not a state of provincial or local emergency has been declared, the Minister or the head of a local authority may implement a provincial or local emergency plan, respectively, if in their opinion, an emergency exists or appears imminent or a disaster has occurred or threatens.

When does an emergency end?

The Lieutenant Governor in Council, Minister responsible for the Act must cancel the declaration of a state of provincial emergency when the emergency no longer exists and may cancel a state of local emergency at any time the minister or the Lieutenant Governor in Council considerations appropriate in the circumstances. The local authority which declared a state of local emergency must also cancel the declaration when that emergency no longer exists.

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Public Health Act

What is it?

Administered by the Ministry of Health, the *Public Health Act (PHA)* replaced the *Health Act* in 2009. The *PHA* provides a comprehensive framework for dealing with current and emerging public health issues, including communicable disease prevention and control, health promotion, and health protection. The *PHA* provides the Minister, public health officials, regional health authorities, local governments, and others with important tools, such as the ability to issue orders necessary to respond to public health emergencies. The scope of the *PHA* is narrower than the *EPA* insofar as it is restricted to the health context, and considers and addresses health impacts for citizens, rather than impacts on businesses, the environment or infrastructure.

Examples of powers to address infectious diseases

Under the *PHA*, a medical health officer has broad powers to issue an order to a person to do anything necessary to determine whether an “infectious agent” or “hazardous agent” exists or to prevent their transmission. Infectious agents and hazardous agents are prescribed by regulations. In an emergency, the Minister responsible for the Act may bypass the Lieutenant Governor in Council to make regulations to prescribe an infectious agent or a hazardous agent.

Under the *PHA*, the Minister may, by order, designate a place as a quarantine facility if the Minister reasonably believes that the temporary use of the place for the purposes of isolating or detaining infected persons is necessary to protect public health, and the owner of the facility must provide the place to the Minister or a medical health officer.

What defines an emergency?

Part 5 of the *PHA* outlines additional powers that the Minister or a health officer may exercise in case of an emergency. A situation qualifies as an emergency when a certain number of specific conditions are met.

For localized events—that is, when there are immediate and significant public health risks that are limited to a localized area—a person must believe that the following two conditions are met:

- 1) Immediate action is required to protect public health from significant harm; and
- 2) Normal compliance of the Act would hinder mitigating the risk to public health.

For regional events—that is, when there are immediate and significant public health risks throughout a region or the province—the Provincial Health Officer must provide notice that at least two of the following conditions must be met:

1. The regional event could have a serious impact on public health;
2. The regional event is unusual or unexpected;
3. There is a significant risk of the spread of an infectious agent or a hazardous agent;
4. There is a significant risk of travel or trade restrictions as a result of the regional event.

What powers are available during an emergency?

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In an emergency, health officers are given extraordinary powers to perform their duties. Health officers may perform their duties in a more expeditious manner (e.g. not provide a notice, provide an oral notice instead of in writing, conduct an inspection without warrant, act in a shorter or longer time period than otherwise required).

In an emergency, the Provincial Health Officer or medical health officer may order a person to take preventive measures (e.g. being treated, vaccinated, taking preventive medication, undergoing disinfection and decontamination measures, wearing a type of clothing or other personal protective equipment), conduct an inspection at any time without warrant, including of a private dwelling, and order that a specified infectious agent, hazardous agent, health hazards, or other matter be reported.

When does an emergency end?

The authority to act under extraordinary powers end as soon as reasonably practical after the emergency has passed for a localized event. For a regional event, these powers end when the Provincial Health Officer provide notice that the emergency has passed.

Relationship Between EPA and PHA

Legal advice and past experience suggest that the EPA and PHA can operate side by side. For example, a state of provincial or local emergency does not need to be declared under the EPA in order for the Provincial Health Officer or medical health officer to exercise powers under the PHA. Both Acts provide the respective Ministers responsible with the ability to acquire or use personal property. However, it is worth noting that the PHA does not provide the ability to prohibit travel, which may be a useful tool during a pandemic. That power could be exercised under the EPA, either by the Minister responsible causing a provincial emergency plan to be implemented (presumably a pandemic plan that includes travel restrictions) or by declaring a state of provincial emergency.

Legal advice also confirms that preventative costs associated with pandemics would not qualify for Disaster Financial Assistance under the EPA. In addition, while the EPA provides authority for the Minister to make payments and grants for emergency prevention, preparedness, and response, such payments are made through a voted appropriation rather than the EPA's statutory appropriation.

Further investigation is required regarding the ability of either the EPA or the PHA to override standards such as for drinking water in the event of an emergency/catastrophe. It is proposed that these interoperability questions will be assessed during legislative drafting of the new emergency management legislation.

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COVID-19 Cabinet Committee

Thursday – March 19, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m

AGENDA

	Topic	Lead or Facilitator	Materials	Attach #
1.	Socio-Economic Strategy Update	Don Wright		
2.	Implementation of K-12 school suspension	Minister Flemming		
3.	Legislature Sitting	Minister Farnworth		
4.	Employment Standards Issues	Don Wright		
5.	Health Modelling/Table Top Exercising	Minister Dix Stephen Brown		
6.	Demonstration of Health App	Minister Dix Stephen Brown		



Covid-19 Deputy Ministers' Committee

Tuesday – March 17, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

In person: s.15
Dial In: s.15; s.17
Toll-Free: s.15; s.17

AGENDA

	Topic	Lead or Facilitator	Materials	Attach #
1.	Update on Health Developments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update• Demonstration of New App	S. Brown		
2.	Cabinet Committee Agenda for March 19	L. Halls S. Brown		1
3.	Socio-Economic Strategy Update	D. Wright		
4.	Farm Workers	W. Shoemaker		
5.	Brainstorm re: impacted workforces redeployed to meet critical functions/societal needs	All		
6.	Employment Standards Issues	T. Hughes		
7.	Stakeholder Engagement Strategy	L. Halls		
8.	Focused Roundtable on New Issues	All		

Covid-19 Deputy Ministers' Committee

MEMBERS

Co-Chairs:

Stephen Brown	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Lori Halls	Deputy Minister, Emergency Management BC, Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General

Members:

Wes Shoemaker	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture
Allison Bond	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children & Family Development
Jill Kot	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Citizens' Services
Fazil Mihlar	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Jobs, Trade and Technology
Kaye Krishna	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing
David Galbraith	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction
Shauna Brouwer	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture
Grant Main	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
Scott MacDonald	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education
Shannon Baskerville	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
Lori Wanamaker	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance
Trevor Hughes	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labour
Doug Caul	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
Mark Sieben	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General
Donna Evans	Deputy Minister, Government Communications & Public Engagement
Okenge Yuma Morisho	Deputy Minister, Public Service Agency
Bobbi Plecas	Deputy Minister, Intergovernmental Relations
Christine Kennedy	Associate Deputy Minister, Office of the Premier
Eric Kristianson	Assistant Deputy Minister, Office of the Premier

Secretariat:

Jennifer Walker	A/Director, Ministry of Health
Kathryn Forge	Executive Director, Emergency Management BC



Covid-19 Deputy Ministers' Committee

Tuesday – March 24, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

In person: s.15

Dial In: s.15; s.17

Toll-Free: s.15; s.17

AGENDA

	Topic	Lead or Facilitator	Materials	Attachment #
1.	Update on Health Developments (20 minutes)	S. Brown		
2.	Legislative/Regulatory Approach (15 minutes)	R. Fyfe		2
3.	Emergency Program Act Orders (15 minutes)	L. Halls	•	3
4.	Essential Services (5 minutes)	L. Halls	•	4
5.	Cabinet Committee Agenda and Material for March 25 (5 minutes)	D. Wright	•	5
6.	Report Out on Key Priorities (Remaining) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Short Status Update on Progress• Identify Connections/Conversations that Need to Happen	All		

Covid-19 Deputy Ministers' Committee

Co-Chairs:

Stephen Brown	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Lori Halls	Deputy Minister, Emergency Management BC, Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General

Members:

Shannon Baskerville	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
Wes Shoemaker	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture
Richard Fyfe	Deputy Attorney General, Ministry of Attorney General
Allison Bond	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children & Family Development
Jill Kot	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Citizens' Services
Scott MacDonald	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education
Dave Nikolejsin	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources
Mark Zacharias	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment
Kevin Jardine	Associate Deputy Minister, Environmental Assessment Office
Lori Wanamaker	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance
Heather Wood	Associate Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance
John Allan	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development
Donna Evans	Deputy Minister, Government Communications & Public Engagement
Doug Caul	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
Bobbi Plecas	Deputy Minister, Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat
Fazil Mihar	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness
Trevor Hughes	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labour
Neilane Mayhew	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions
Kaye Krishna	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing
Mark Sieben	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General
Okenge Yuma Morisho	Deputy Minister, Public Service Agency
David Galbraith	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction
Shauna Brouwer	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture
Grant Main	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
Don Wright	Deputy Minister to the Premier, Office of the Premier
Christine Kennedy	Associate Deputy Minister, Office of the Premier
Eric Kristianson	Assistant Deputy Minister, Office of the Premier
Alex MacLennan	Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Premier
Christina Zacharuk	CEO & President, Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat

Secretariat:

Jennifer Walker	A/Director, Ministry of Health
Kathryn Forge	Executive Director, Emergency Management BC

Optional

Geoff Meggs	Office of the Premier
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DM COMMITTEE COVID-19

MAG PRESENTATION RE LEGAL ADVICE / LEGISLATION / EPA ORDERS

1. Priorizing and coordinating legal advice requests
2. Scope of EPA s. 10 Order Power
3. Possible Legislation Needs

1. LEGAL ADVICE REQUESTS – PRIORITIES

- Early in crisis, multiple simultaneous requests and inquiries
- Limited legal resources to respond
- Process to track and set priorities
- Triage process – First Priorities
 - Facilitate further legislative sessions if possible (remote)
 - Get control of Local Government Orders / Coordinate actions being taken by local governments
 - Signals about steps government plans to take (eg. Provincial Coordination Unit for supply management) – avoid patchwork of measures in different local government states of emergency

2. SCOPE OF EPA S. 10 ORDER POWER

- Initial view re limits on power has been expanded
- Majority of measures can be achieved by EPA s. 10 order
 - Secure critical supply chains
 - Ensure people have access to essential goods and services
 - Ensure critical infrastructure readily available to support response
 - Ensure Province is in a strong position to effectively recover
- Reviewing long list of proposed orders to identify those required immediately and those which can wait a few days

3. POSSIBLE LEGISLATION NEEDS

- Matters which cannot be adequately addressed with EPA s. 10 Order
 - Legislature remote sittings
 - Expand EPA s. 10 powers
 - so Minister can temporarily suspend/ replace operation of any enactment (retroactive)

- so that the effect of an order can extend beyond the duration of the emergency
- or alternatively Enable power for the LGIC to make regulations to suspend and replace other legislative provisions
- Enable Province to
 - assume direction and control from a Local Authority
 - require Local Authorities to support emergencies outside of their jurisdictions
 - extend duration of states of emergency (provincial and local government)
 - override local governments where states of emergency co-exist
 - order businesses to open or close
 - provide for recovery plans, including financial assistance
- Specify EPA Order non compliance is an offence
- Enable remotely executed Land Title documents

COVID 19 – RELATED LEGISLATION SUGGESTIONS

DRAFT as of March 23, 2020 7 pm

#	Statute	Amendment Description	Urgency	Responsible LC
1	<i>Constitution Act</i> (electronic sitting of Legislature)	<p>Amend the <i>Constitution Act</i> to clarify or declare that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the members of the Legislative Assembly have the authority to determine alternate forums for transacting their business, instead of needing to be physically present in the same location; • members are “present” while meeting in a forum approved under this provision; • decisions regarding an acceptable alternate forum for conducting business may be made in the same manner as the members make other decisions, i.e. by way of a majority vote of the members present (at least a quorum of ten); and • votes for such decisions may be held in a forum that the members have already approved (i.e. physical presence in the Chamber, <u>or</u> in the future once a decision on alternative forums has been made pursuant to this new provision, then in a forum so approved). <p>Any alternative forums approved by the members would need to accommodate the “privileges, immunities, and powers” of the assembly and its members (i.e. members’ right of access to the forum for sitting). The members could give greater form to this requirement, and to the process for</p>	High	Kathie Dann, David Cowie, and Alexander Stirling

#	Statute	Amendment Description	Urgency	Responsible LC
		<p>determining and using alternative forums, via the Standing Orders.</p> <p>This would require consultation with the Office of the Speaker, the Green Party Caucus, and the members of the opposition, which has not yet occurred. There would likely need to also be a corresponding amendment to the Standing Orders, which would have to be led by the Legislative Assembly and not by the executive branch of government.</p>		
2	<p><i>Emergency Program Act</i></p> <p>(Clarify/Expand Scope of s. 10 Powers)</p>	<p>Under s. 10 of the <i>EPA</i>, the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General already has the power, in the context of a state of emergency, to “do all acts and implement all procedures that the minister considers necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or a disaster...” including a list of specific acts and procedures.</p> <p>The proposed amendment would ensure clarity that the minister’s powers under s. 10 (1) include the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) temporarily suspend the operation of a provision of any enactment; and (b) if it is appropriate to do so, set out a replacement provision to be in effect during the temporary suspension of that provision. <p>Provision to avoid suggesting that the minister did not previously have this power and provide that any acts and procedures (i.e. orders) previously done or implemented by the minister under s. 10 that suspend or replace the operation of other legislative provisions remain valid. (This is important for any orders that may be made this week, or any time before this amendment)</p> <p>Provide that the minister may exercise this ability during the state of emergency, any extension thereof, and during the “recovery period” for that state of provincial emergency.</p> <p>The acts/procedures done or implemented by the minister under this power may have retroactive effect back to the declaration of the state of emergency and would remain in effect until the end</p>	Medium (if #1 and #3 do not proceed, then this is high)	Kathie Dann, David Cowie, and Alexander Stirling

#	Statute	Amendment Description	Urgency	Responsible LC
		<p>of the “recovery period” unless an earlier date is specified in the order or in the declaration or extension of the state of emergency, or unless ratified by the Legislative Assembly when it first sits after the state of emergency has ended. The “recovery period” would end within a set number of days of the Legislative Assembly sitting after the state of emergency has ended.</p>		
3	<p><i>Emergency Program Act</i> (Create NEW Extraordinary Regulation-Making Powers for LGIC)</p>	<p>Substantially similar to the “clarify/expand scope of s. 10 powers” proposal above but would instead be a power for the LGIC to make regulations to suspend and replace other legislative provisions, rather than for the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General to do so by way of ministerial orders.</p> <p>Benefits of this approach may be that it is a more explicit expression of the Legislature’s intent to delegate this authority to the executive branch, and that there is a greater degree of oversight and contemplation if it requires LGIC rather than one minister. This may be preferable from a rule-of-law perspective.</p> <p>A drawback of this proposed amendment is that it could be taken to imply that the existing s. 10 powers are not currently that broad, which could call into question the validity of orders made before the amendment (unless the provision explicitly specifies that it is not meant to be construed as limiting the s. 10 powers).</p>	High	Kathie Dann, David Cowie, and Alexander Stirling
4	<p><i>Emergency Program Act</i></p> <p>(These are from an existing RFL of EMBC and identified by EMBC as higher priority than its other previous</p>	<p>1. Add an ability for the Province to assume direction and control from a Local Authority. This recognizes that certain broad scale public emergencies need to be coordinated at the provincial level, rather than allowing for the possibility of local responses to dilute or confuse the effects of measures such as orders under the <i>Emergency Program Act</i> or <i>Provincial Health Act</i>. For example, this would reduce the risk of a patchwork of local measures creating conflict or confusion regarding orders of the Provincial Health Officer.</p>	Medium (could be addressed through 1 or 3 above)	Kathie Dann, David Cowie, and Alexander Stirling

#	Statute	Amendment Description	Urgency	Responsible LC
	proposals in the RFL)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Provide new provincial powers during States of Provincial Emergency to require Local Authorities to support emergencies outside of their jurisdictions (e.g., hosting a quarantine facility or facilities for the disposal of human remains). 3. Provide for a longer time duration for the declaration of initial states of local emergency to 14 days from 7 days, and to 14 days from 7 days on extension. This will relieve the Minister or LGIC from some burden of approving renewals under 12(6). 4. Provide for a longer time duration for the declaration of initial states of provincial emergency to 28 days from 14 days, and to 28 days from 14 days on extension. This will remove some burden on reconvening LGIC for the purpose of extension. 5. Amend s. 14 (3) to clarify that states of local emergency and states of provincial emergency may co-exist. If there is a conflict between the two, the state of provincial emergency overrides the state of local emergency. 6. Provide that following a state of provincial or local emergency, the Province or a Local Authority, respectively, may declare "recovery powers" for a period, provided those powers meet enumerated criteria (i.e. in the public interest, proportionate, etc.). (This is linked to a similar proposal in the "clarify/expand scope of s. 10 powers proposal, above). 7. Add a provincial and/or local authority power under s.10 (1) to make orders for businesses to close or open. 8. Amend s. 4 (2) (c) [<i>Powers and duties of minister</i>] to include payments and grants for the purposes of recovery. In addition, repeal s.16 (2) which states that disaster financial assistance cannot be paid out of the EPA's statutory appropriation. This would require consultation with Ministry of Finance and Treasury Board Staff, which has not yet occurred). The rationale is that it provides government with a mechanism to make what could be significant recovery payments 		

#	Statute	Amendment Description	Urgency	Responsible LC
		(potentially including economic recovery) that are not budgeted and where the Contingencies Vote may not be adequate.		
5	<i>Emergency Program Act, s. 27</i> (Offences & Enforcement)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend s. 27 [Offence] of the EPA to address orders as the current provision does not provide that it is an offence to not comply with an order under the Act. Instead, the authority to enforce orders would have to be read in to a provision stating that it is an offence to contravene this Act or regulations. 	High (could be addressed by 1 or 3 above)	Kathie Dann, David Cowie, and Alexander Stirling
6	<i>Land Title Act, s. 42</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 42 of the LTA requires execution of all Land Title forms to be in person. This section has been interpreted by the courts to not allow execution via video conferencing. The Registrar may accept remotely-executed documents "where circumstances require" (s. 49) <u>and</u> if there is a third party available to swear an affidavit that the transferor signing the form is known to them and they are familiar with his or her signature. This is not always be possible and requires the amendment to current rules for the in-person execution of affidavits by lawyers, notaries, and commissioners. An amendment to s. 42 could empower the LGIC to direct by regulation other acceptable methods of execution, possibly limited to certain circumstances, time periods, and documents. A regulation making power would allow FLNR to work with the LTSA to establish a practice acceptable to the Registrar and one that can evolve with the COVID19 crisis. This amendment would support the real estate sector by providing options for the transfer of parcels or interests in the context of COVID19 and also in a way that respects the integrity of the Land Title system in BC. 	High (this will be high even if #1 proceeds because FLNRORD is concerned that it be addressed ASAP; relying on 1 or 3 above would require an extra step)	Deanna Billo

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EMERGENCY PROGRAM ACT ORDERS

PRIORITY LIST ONE – IMMEDIATE

On March 18th, a provincial state of emergency was declared to support the Provincial Health Officer and Minister of Health in swift and effective provincial response to COVID-19. This declaration will make sure federal, provincial and local resources are delivered in a joint, coordinated way to protect British Columbians and keep people safe.

Under a provincial state of emergency, the Minister has extraordinary powers under the *Emergency Program Act (EPA)* to take measures necessary to prevent, respond or alleviate the impacts of an emergency. Orders under the *EPA* give the Province the means to secure critical supply chains, ensure people have access to essential goods and services to keep society running, and make sure critical infrastructure is readily available to support COVID-19 response and that the Province is in a strong position to effectively recover from the public health emergency.

Objectives:

1. To ensure the province can effectively prevent, respond to and alleviate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. Reassure British Columbians that essential services and supplies to keep society running, including but not limited to food, medical and infrastructure, are safe; and, that the Province could take further steps to provide, maintain and coordinate emergency medical, social supports and other essential services if and when required to protect people against the impacts of COVID-19.
3. Being mindful that decisions that are made in response have an impact on recovery, decisions to manage the short-term impact of COVID-19 must consider the longer term potential impacts, particularly to the possible irreversible disruptions to food, medical and fuel supply chains.
4. By instating the provincial state of emergency we have the mechanisms to ensure local, provincial, and federal interests are considered and fully informed decisions are made that consider all available factors.
5. Except where closures have been ordered by the PHO, coordinate efforts to ensure that daily essential services continue to function.

INTENDED ORDERS FOR ROUND ONE

1. All local authorities in the Province must immediately activate their emergency plans.
2. All local authority orders which meet the following criteria are set aside:
 - i) the local authority order was made prior to the date of this order;
 - ii) the local authority order was made pursuant to a declaration of local emergency made under the provisions of the *Emergency Program Act* in response to the COVID-19 pandemic currently impacting the province of British Columbia.

3. All orders of the City of Vancouver which meet the following criteria are set aside:
 - i) the City of Vancouver order was made prior to the date of this order;
 - ii) the City of Vancouver order was made pursuant to a declaration of emergency under s. 173 of the *Vancouver Charter* in response to the COVID-19 pandemic currently impacting the province of British Columbia
4. As of the date of this order, no local authority may exercise any power or make any order under s. 13 of the *Emergency Program Act* in response to the COVID-19 pandemic without first obtaining the approval of the Minister to do so.
5. As of the date of this order, the City of Vancouver may not exercise any power under s. 173 of the *Community Charter* in response to the COVID-19 pandemic without first obtaining the approval of the Minister to do so.
6. All local authorities must immediately identify the resources within their areas of jurisdiction that can be used to respond to or mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including:
 - i) facilities which could be used to allow individuals to self-isolate;
 - ii) facilities which could be used to warehouse essential supplies; and
 - iii) facilities which could be used to provide medical care or testing.
7. At the request of Emergency Management BC, a local authority must immediately report to Emergency Management BC on the resources within the local authority's area of jurisdiction that can be used to respond to or mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
8. At the request of Emergency Management BC, all local authorities must immediately identify critical supply and service needs within their areas of jurisdiction relating to the local authority's ability to respond to or mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and report to Emergency Management BC on any such needs identified.
9. All local authorities must review, and if necessary, update their emergency response and business continuity plans to ensure:
 - i) that the delivery of essential services can be maintained in a manner that complies with existing and future orders and guidance from the Provincial Health Officer;
 - ii) that COVID-19 illness and other related limitations are taken into account with respect to preparations and response measures for other emergencies such as flooding or wildfire.
10. All local authorities must make best efforts to conclude mutual aid agreements with neighbouring jurisdictions to ensure that first responder services, waste water services and drinking water services are maintained. After so doing, local authorities must report to Emergency Management BC if any first responder, waste water or drinking water service continuity issue remains unresolved.
11. Despite any local authority bylaw restricting or limiting when goods may be delivered to a retailer, food and other supplies may be delivered to a retailer at any time of day.
12. BC Ferries must implement procedures to ensure priority ferry loading for vehicles carrying essential supplies, and for residents of ferry sailing destinations.

13. All recreational travel throughout the Province is prohibited.
14. At the request of Emergency Management BC, all retailers, suppliers, businesses, and other organizations within the Province must report to Emergency Management BC on their inventory of critical supplies and resources, including supplies required by front line health care, first responders, and other prioritized essential workers.
15. In order to ensure the effective management and delivery of critical services for vulnerable populations within the Province, including Food Banks and shelter services, local authorities must make best efforts to provide assistance in the management and delivery of such services.
16. For the purposes of this order, “secondary selling” means
 - (a) the purchase or other acquisition of a good in a retail environment, or
 - (b) acquisition of a good by donation, whether inside or outside of British Columbia, and subsequently offering that good for resale in-person, on any business premises, by phone or fax, on a website, a web-based application, or by any other means.
- 16.1 No person may engage in secondary selling with respect to goods vital and necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the public, including without limitation: food, water and other beverages, fuel, gasoline, health care goods, pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, and personal hygiene, sanitation, and cleaning goods.
17. This order only applies during the period that the declaration of a state of emergency made March 18, 2020 under section 9 (1) of the Emergency Program Act and any extension of the duration of that declaration is in effect.
18. For the purposes of this Order, a “**bylaw enforcement officer**” is any bylaw enforcement officer designated under s.264 (1) (b) of the *Community Charter*, s. 482.91 (c) of the *Vancouver Charter*, or s.414 of the *Local Government Act*, and prescribed under s.3 (c), (d) and (f) of the *Community Charter Bylaw Enforcement Ticket Regulation* or s. s.3 (d) of the *Vancouver Charter By-Law Enforcement Ticket Regulation*.
 - (1) To the greatest extent possible without [significantly / unduly / prohibitively / materially] compromising the local authority’s other enforcement objectives, local authorities must make bylaw enforcement officers available within their jurisdictional area for the purposes of providing assistance to health officers in the enforcement of Public Health Orders issued by the Provincial Health Officer relating to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - (a) The assistance provided by a bylaw enforcement officer will include:
 - (i) Monitoring facilities and areas closed to the public by public health order;
 - (ii) Providing warnings, information, and advice to members of the public who are, or may be, in contravention of a public health order;

(iii) Providing information to health officers relating to the possible contravention of a public health order;

(b) In providing assistance under this order, a bylaw enforcement officer, is not being provided with the authority to:

(i) Detain any individual for non-compliance of a public health order, or

(ii) Issue any form of fine or penalty, including an administrative penalty, under the *Public Health Act*.

(2) Nothing in this Order shall be interpreted as limiting the powers or authorities of a bylaw enforcement officer granted to them by a local authority.

19. relieve local governments of the requirements under the Community Charter, SBC 2003, c 26 to conduct council meetings open to the public
20. allow local governments to meet virtually/electronically where there is no existing bylaw under the Community Charter to do so.
21. Allow local governments to conduct 3 readings and adopt a bylaw on the same day.

MEASURES WITHIN PROVINCIAL POWER NOT REQUIRING AN ORDER - MESSAGING

1. The Province shall activate a Provincial Supply Chain Coordination Unit to take all measures necessary for the acquisition, procurement or production and distribution of all prioritized essential supplies including the identification of stocks that may be acquired or donated from any source for redistribution to where it is needed most.
2. The Province, through the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre and in full collaboration with the federal government, is ordered to coordinate the movement of all essential goods and services by land, air, rail, or marine traffic. All air services required to transport essential goods, services or personnel shall be under provincial control through the establishment of a Coordinated Provincial Air Service as established by the BC Wildfire Service
3. BC Ferries is ordered to ensure minimum service levels are in place

COMMENT: BC Ferries is governed by the Coastal Ferry Act:

s.25(2) - delivery of ferry service is an essential service "necessary for the health, safety and welfare of the residents of BC"

s.43 – No reduction without authorization. "A ferry operator must not, except as permitted by the applicable Coastal Ferry Services Contract, reduce service on a designated ferry route below the core ferry services required for that designated ferry route unless the ferry operator first obtains the authorization or direction of the commissioner to do so."

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.14

EMERGENCY PROGRAM ACT ORDERS

PRIORITY LIST TWO – IMPLEMENT WHEN NEEDED

- Undertake the advanced planning required to ensure resumption of normal service is possible.

COMMENT: Reserve for recovery phase

- Working with the federal government, telecommunications providers are to provide prioritized access and services to all government and associated agencies leading COVID-19 response and recovery actions.

COMMENT: Dialogue with telecommunication providers prior to an order. Unclear whether this would be within provincial power.

- The Province will work with the Competition Bureau of Canada to assess and suspend as necessary potential contraventions of the *Competition Act*

COMMENT: Reserve for when needed.

- Any designated retailer shall provide any required assistance in responding to and alleviating the effects of COVID-19 upon request of the Province.

COMMENT: Not considered as necessary with other measures implemented in round one. No reason to believe retailers are not cooperating.

- Permit all local authorities in BC to use emergency purchasing powers to sole source necessary services and supplies to respond to, alleviate or recover from the effects of COVID-19

COMMENT: Not believed to be necessary

s.12

- Persons and agriculture industry operators entrusted to the care of animals are to immediately report if unable to meet their obligations for care to the SPCA or Ministry of Agriculture as appropriate.

COMMENT: Dialogue with SPCA and Agriculture required to determine if there is a problem to be resolved.

- An order relieving the Superintendent of Motor Vehicles from a statutory deadline under the *Motor Vehicle Act*, RSBC 1996, c 318 by which the Superintendent is required to conduct a review of administrative driving prohibition

COMMENT: Being reviewed under other legislation

- Tax relief and deferrals

COMMENT: Too complex to use the EPA as the instrument

s.14

Essential Services

Essential services are those daily services essential to preserving life, health, public safety and basic societal functioning.

This definition is intended to provide the latitude to essential service providers, ministries, and municipal and regional governments to use their discretion to apply a risk-based approach to maintain the service at the minimum threshold required. Note that some degradation or reduction in the service may be expected and in line with the overall public demand at that time.

Interpretation as to the applicability of what is an essential service should be directed to the associated provincial ministry or federal department that is responsible.

A list of essential services is provided below:

- All health care services, including acute care (hospitals), secondary care / long-term care, coroners services, health care providers working within and outside an acute care setting and other health services including public health;
- Other health services and caregivers (e.g., physicians, dentists, psychiatrists, psychologists, mid-level practitioners, nurses and assistants, infection control and quality assurance personnel, pharmacists, physical and occupational therapists and assistants, social workers, mental health and substance use workers including peer support workers, speech pathologists, diagnostic and therapeutic technicians and technologists, counselors, chiropractors, naturopaths, dentists, and crisis centres);
- Pharmaceutical production, medical laboratories/research, medical testing, pharmacies, medical supply and equipment manufacturers, wholesale, distribution and stores;
- First responders, including police, fire, and paramedics and those services providing for public safety including commercial vehicle safety enforcement (CVSE), corrections and detainment facilities, park rangers, security and protective services, building code enforcement;
- Retail: Grocery stores, convenience stores, farmers' markets and other establishments engaged in the retail sale or provision of food, pet or livestock supply, liquor, cannabis, and any other household consumer products, such as cleaning and personal care products. This includes stores that sell groceries and also sell other non-grocery products, and products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential daily operation of residences such as home supply, hardware and building material stores;
- Supply chain services needed to supply goods for societal functioning, including cooling, storing, packaging, transportation, warehousing, and distribution;
- Workers who support the maintenance and operation of cargo transportation services, including crews, maintenance, operations, and other facilities workers;
- Manufacturers and distributors (to include service centers and related operations) of packaging materials, pallets, crates, containers, and other supplies needed to support manufacturing, packaging staging and distribution operations;
- Infrastructure, drilling and production, refineries and processing facilities, utilities, transportation, transmission, stations, and storage facilities critical in supporting daily essential electricity needs, drinking water, waste water, electricity, alternative energy production, waste

management, natural and propane gas, fuel, and other fuel sources such as heating oil and wood pellets, as well as operating staff;

- Truck drivers who haul hazardous and waste materials to support critical infrastructure, capabilities, functions, and services;
- Local, regional, and provincial delivery services, including but not limited to businesses that ship or deliver groceries, food, goods or services directly to business and residences and mailing and shipping services;
- Services to support and enable transportation, including highway, road, bridge maintenance and repair;
- Employees who repair and maintain vehicles, aircraft, rail equipment, marine vessels, and the equipment and infrastructure that enables operations that encompass movement of cargo and passengers;
- Services that facilitate the transportation of essential supplies, personnel, and services, including port, road, air and rail operations;
- Facilities supporting interprovincial and intra-provincial delivery of goods, including truck scales, commercial vehicle inspection stations, brokerages, truck towing and repair services, commercial cardlock fuel providers, truck and rest stops;
- Cleaning services necessary to provide and maintain disinfection;
- Food cultivation, including farming, livestock, aquaculture and fishing;
- Food processing, manufacturing agents, including all foods and beverages;
- Workers essential to maintain or repair equipment in food processing and distribution centres
- Feed, water, bedding, veterinary care, veterinary supply, transport and processing services for livestock, and animal shelters;
- Coroners and workers performing mortuary services, including funeral homes, crematoriums, and cemeteries;
- Farming supply, including seed, fertilizer, pesticides, farm machinery sales and maintenance;
- Manufacturing of goods necessary for the continued and immediate operation of other essential infrastructure and businesses;
- Businesses and non-profits that provide food, shelter, social, and support services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise vulnerable individuals, such as foodbanks, community kitchens, and voluntary and community service providers, and residential health facilities, mental health and substance use services; transitional, social and supportive housing; and SROs;
- Community services and outreach for immigrant, refugees, vulnerable populations and non-market housing;
- Businesses that provide support to police and correctional services;
- Newspapers, television, radio, and other media services;
- Information technology, radio, cable providers, and telecommunications services, including phone, internet, wireless communications, and data centres; satellite operations, undersea cable landing stations, Internet Exchange Points, and manufacturers and distributors of communications equipment;
- Workers responding to cyber incidents involving critical infrastructure, including medical facilities, governments facilities, energy and utilities, and banks and financial institutions, and other critical infrastructure categories and personnel;

- Banks and their branches, stock exchanges, credit unions, and related financial institutions;
- Services related to bankruptcy/credit restructuring and non-bank sources of capital; cheque-cashing outlets; money sending and money remittance services; currency exchange services; pawn brokers;
- Accounting, legal services and insurance providers; insurance assessment and adjudication providers;
- Plumbers, electricians, elevator maintenance providers, exterminators, and other service providers who provide services that are necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and daily essential operation of residences;
- Educational institutions—including public and private K-12 schools, and public post secondary institutions—for purposes of facilitating distance learning or performing essential functions, if operating under rules for physical distancing or other recommendations from the PHO;
- Laundromats, dry cleaners, and laundry service providers;
- Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food, if operating under rules for social distancing or other recommendations from the PHO;
- Towing services and other vehicle repair/maintenance operations;
- Schools and other entities that provide free food services to students or members of the public, if operating under rules for physical distancing or other recommendations from the PHO;
- Businesses that supply other essential businesses and people working from home with the support or supplies necessary to operate;
- Public transportation services under rules for physical distancing or other recommendations from the PHO;
- Aircraft, helicopter, taxis, ride-hailing, ferries and marine vessels and other private transportation providers providing transportation services necessary for essential activities, supplies, and other purposes;
- Home-based care for seniors, adults, children, or individuals with disabilities;
- Childcare services for those persons providing essential services;
- Caregivers for children in care and out of care;
- Elder and disability care, including disabled service support – for physical and cognitive disabled persons;
- Residential care for individuals with mental health and substance use challenges, including licensed and registered treatment and recovery facilities;
- Manufacturing of sanitary products, household paper products, chemicals, microelectronics/semi-conductor;
- Residential and care facilities and shelters for seniors, adults, children, and people with people;
- Workers managing hazardous waste;
- Workers supporting the chemical and industrial gas supply chains, including workers at chemical manufacturing plants, workers in laboratories, workers at distribution facilities, workers who transport basic raw chemical materials to the producers of industrial and consumer goods;
- Public sector workers for peace, order, and good government critical to providing and supporting essential services, and employees of contracted service providers in these fields;
- Provision of public services that support the safe operation of regulated businesses and the provision of public services that support those businesses to meet other regulatory requirements;

- Inspection services and associated regulatory and government workforce required for slaughter of animals, dairy production, and food safety;
- Government and non profit service delivery staff who provide access to income supports for people in need of food and shelter.
- Workers who support the operation, inspection, and maintenance of essential public works facilities and operations;
- Workers who support the inspection and maintenance for ongoing safety at industrial facilities;
- Inspectors who ensure worksites are safe and health for workers, and who investigate serious workplace accidents;
- Workers who process and manage claims made by injured workers, including services related to their care and treatment as well as the provision of workers' compensation benefits;
- Government owned or leased buildings;
- Hotels and places of accommodation;
- Activities the Consuls General and staff who support the work of the Consuls General;
- Landlords of buildings where the consulates are located must guarantee access to consular offices as well as the operation of the consular offices.
- Storage for essential businesses;
- Overdose prevention sites, clinical overdose prevention or medical marijuana provision;
- Construction work, in accordance with PHO direction; construction firms, skilled trades, and professionals; and construction equipment rental;
- Operations and services in support of the Canadian Armed Forces;
- Emergency management personnel at local, regional, and provincial levels.



Cabinet Committee

COVID-19 AGENDA ITEMS:

	Topic	Lead or Facilitator	Materials
1.	Health Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PPE	Minister Dix Stephen Brown	
2.	EMBC Update <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emergency Program Act Orders• Essential Services	Minister Farnworth Lori Halls	
3.	Safe Work Sites Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health• Others	Minister Dix Don Wright	
4.	Modelling Forecast Presentation	Minister Dix Stephen Brown	
5.	Socio-economic Framework	Don Wright	



Covid-19 Deputy Ministers' Committee

Tuesday – March 31, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

In person: s.12; s.15; s.17

Dial In: s.12; s.15; s.17

Toll-Free: s.12; s.15; s.17

AGENDA

	Topic	Lead or Facilitator	Materials	Attachment #
1.	Update on Health Developments (10 mins)	S. Brown		
2.	Update on EMBC (10 Min) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compliance and Enforcement Approach• Coordination of Orders• 1-888-COVID-19	L. Halls	C and E Approach	2
3.	Supply Chain Management (30 mins)	L. Halls S. Brownsey	Presentation	3
4.	Prioritization and Business Process for Safe Worksite Guidelines (10 mins)	L. Halls		
5.	Covid-19 Cost Management and Tracking (10 mins)	L. Halls H. Wood		
6.	Issues to Connect On (45 mins)	All		
7.	Cabinet Committee Agenda and Material for April 1 (5 mins)	D. Wright	Agenda	4



Covid-19 Deputy Ministers' Committee

Co-Chairs:

Stephen Brown	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health
Lori Halls	Deputy Minister, Emergency Management BC, Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General

Members:

Shannon Baskerville	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
Wes Shoemaker	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture
Richard Fyfe	Deputy Attorney General, Ministry of Attorney General
Allison Bond	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children & Family Development
Jill Kot	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Citizens' Services
Scott MacDonald	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education
Dave Nikolejsin	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Energy, Mines, and Petroleum Resources
Mark Zacharias	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment
Kevin Jardine	Associate Deputy Minister, Environmental Assessment Office
Lori Wanamaker	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance
Heather Wood	Associate Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance
John Allan	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development
Donna Evans	Deputy Minister, Government Communications & Public Engagement
Doug Caul	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Indigenous Relations & Reconciliation
Bobbi Plecas	Deputy Minister, Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat
Fazil Mihar	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Competitiveness
Trevor Hughes	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labour
Neilane Mayhew	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions
Kaye Krishna	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing
Mark Sieben	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General
Okenge Yuma Morisho	Deputy Minister, Public Service Agency
David Galbraith	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Social Development & Poverty Reduction
Shauna Brouwer	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Tourism, Arts & Culture
Grant Main	Deputy Minister, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure
Don Wright	Deputy Minister to the Premier, Office of the Premier
Christine Kennedy	Associate Deputy Minister, Office of the Premier
Eric Kristianson	Assistant Deputy Minister, Office of the Premier
Alex MacLennan	Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Premier
Christina Zacharuk	CEO & President, Public Sector Employers' Council Secretariat

Secretariat:

Jennifer Walker	A/Director, Ministry of Health
Kathryn Forge	Executive Director, Emergency Management BC

Optional

Geoff Meggs	Office of the Premier
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COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

PROBLEM STATEMENT:

- 1) There is an inconsistent approach to compliance and enforcement of the PHO orders by local government, resulting in confusion and uncertainty.
- 2) Not all local governments have bylaw officers reducing the capacity on the ground to undertake compliance activities (education, monitoring, etc) and hopefully reduce the need for further expansion of PHO orders.
- 3) To reduce confusion, compliance officers and retailers/operators need a “pathway to the province” to ensure they can get their questions answered and properly interpret PHO direction.
- 4) Increased calls for police to “enforce” the PHO orders/bylaws are going unanswered for the most part as they focus on more urgent public safety needs while dealing with staff complement challenges themselves.

It's important to recognize, some owners/operators have voluntarily closed due to a number of reasons or adapted their own store practices based on their own interpretation of orders/guidelines (eg. Limiting the number of customers in the premises at a time).

ACTIONS TO ADDRESS:

- **ENFORCEMENT FRAMEWORK** - The PHO is developing clear guidelines to bylaw enforcement officers and any other officials who may be tasked with enforcement. This is expected to be finalized for distribution later today.
- **WORKSITE GUIDELINES** - The PHO has provided additional clarity on the application of orders to retail food and grocery stores (attached).
- **EXPANDING COMPLIANCE OFFICERS** - The Province will expand those individuals who can be available to undertake compliance by redeploying gaming enforcement officers, liquor inspectors and community safety units. Order has been drafted to reflect this change. It is anticipated that this expansion will also bring greater reassurance and confidence in rural/remote areas.
- **UNIFIED COMMAND** - A unified command structure comprising representatives from PSSG, AG, PHO, EMBC and MAH will be established as a central point of contact to anyone enforcing PHO orders and local government as well as businesses and industry to provide clear guidance on the interpretation and application of PHO orders. This command team will also be able to provide a clear line of communication with the enforcement teams and will have direct control on peace officer actions that may be required to enforce the orders. This will allow the province to provide more uniform, consistent application of the orders and enforcement activities. This approach will also allow the PHO to enlist Police Services support, with the view that Police Services identifies any potential police enforcement role.
- **CONSUMER PROTECTION BRANCH** – Concerns regarding reselling will be referred to the Consumer Protection Branch for investigation and follow up.
- **COMMUNICATION:**
 - Deputy Ministers MAH and EMBC to provide a communication to all local governments on the way forward and ask for information on any bylaws that may have been enacted related to COVID-19 measures in the interest of alignment and to ascertain what works and doesn't work (shared best practices). This communication will include a 1-2 page

document on the unified command approach, the guidance from PHO on enforcement as well as all current guidance applicable to business operations (ie/ COVID-19 Guidance to Retail Food and Grocery Stores)

- Outreach to Vancouver and Surrey officials initiated to ensure that there is accurate interpretation of the PHO orders. Message should be that we wish to work together and explain how we intend to move forward.
- 1-888-COVID-19 will be used for complaints
- The enforcement approach should be clarified with news release and media availability.

If the above actions do not result in effective compliance, the following actions may need to be considered:

- Vancouver – The city has enacted a bylaw regarding enforcement under the emergency provisions of the Vancouver Charter. This bylaw (attached) could be rescinded by order.
- Another ministerial order directing enforcement action to cease and desist could be made. It could also restrict the use of any bylaws that are passed directly related to the operation of businesses or the application of PHO orders that exceed those that have been issued. The challenges of doing so are identified as:
 - Local government has the ability to pass bylaws as a part of regular council business. This could be viewed as an overreach of the province in interfering in the way they wish to govern business operations.
 - An order that is not carefully crafted, could introduce additional confusion and have unintended consequences in the withdrawal from any enforcement. As in the case of Prince Rupert local government could simply indicate that the province has taken charge and direct all complaints from the public and others to the province.

COVID19 Supply Chain Update

Deputy Ministers – March 31, 2020

CABINET CONFIDENTIAL

1

KEY MESSAGES

- COVID19 is a unique emergency
 - Not geographically limited like a flood or fire
 - Affecting the entire world at the same time
- Global supply chain typically works well; pandemic has caused market failure which requires government to adapt and intervene
- Province taking decisive and immediate action to secure critical products
 - Priority 1 – Response – Medical products for health sector
 - Priority 2 – Response – Medical/cleaning and food/sundries for other sectors
 - Priority 3 – Recovery – Access goods to support economic recovery
- Immediate focus on priorities 1 and 2

PROBLEM DEFINITION

- Need to maintain critical health system supplies for pandemic response
- Rapid demand increase for specialized personal protective equipment (PPE) and other critical products
- Supply chain disruptions reducing available supply
 - Borders hardening/closing (e.g. US, Germany, China)
 - Many active orders from China, low confidence orders will be delivered
- Erosion of confidence among workforce that adequate supplies are available to ensure safe work sites
- Province faces two challenges:
 - Manage real supply chain issues
 - Manage public fear that drives overbuying

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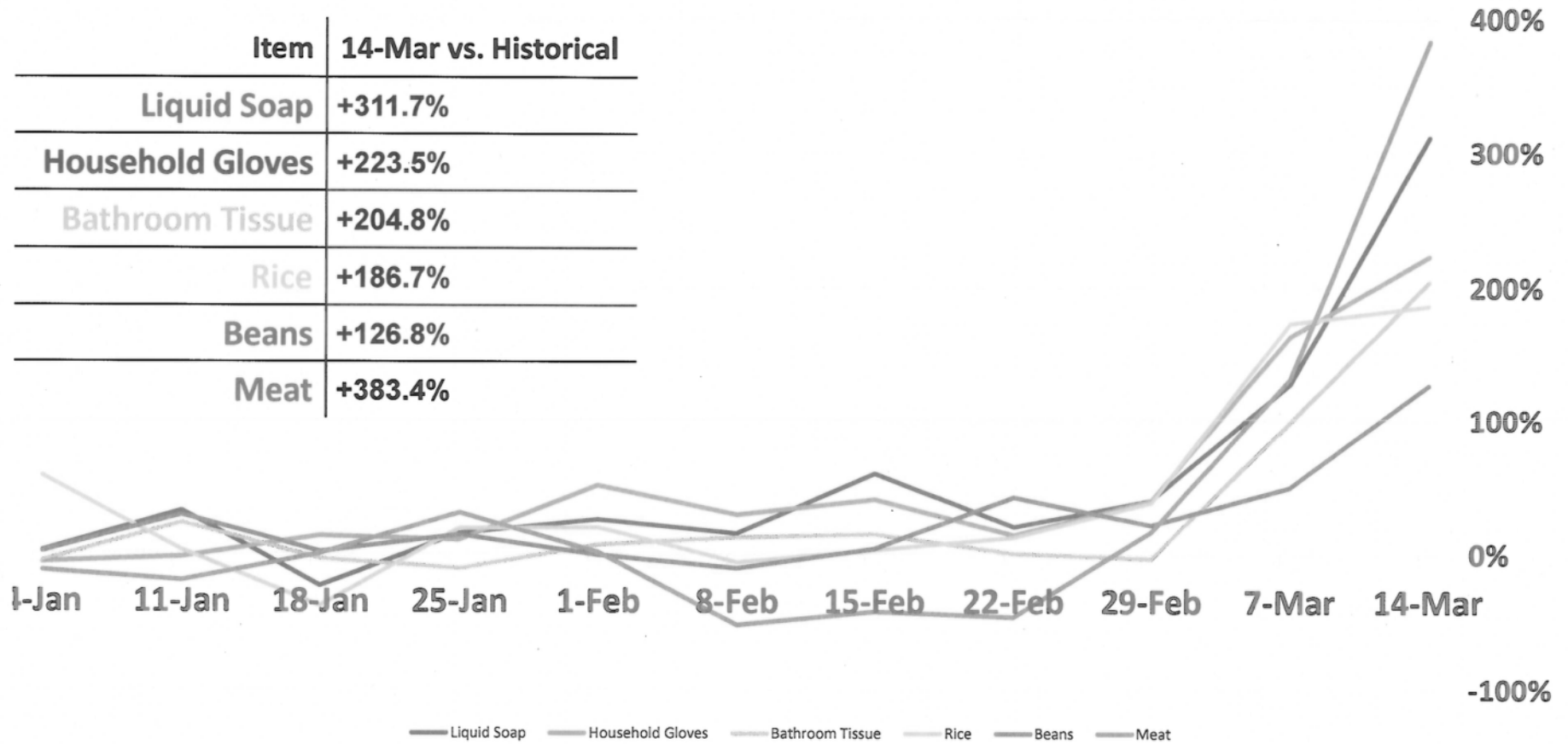
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CRITICAL PRODUCTS

- Utilization of critical products in health sector and some emergency services increasing (e.g., face shields, isolation gowns)
- There are other critical products that are used by the health sector, emergency services, essential public services and industry where demand has increased 6-8 times (e.g., N95 Masks, sanitizer, gloves, disinfectant wipes, cleaners).
- Food, retail goods and other public necessities are critical but involve a different supply chain

2020 Product Purchasing Trends (Neilson Data Set)

Item	14-Mar vs. Historical
Liquid Soap	+311.7%
Household Gloves	+223.5%
Bathroom Tissue	+204.8%
Rice	+186.7%
Beans	+126.8%
Meat	+383.4%



ACTIONS TO MANAGE TO BASIC NECESSITIES

- Voluntary point of sale restrictions by retail sector, which can move to mandatory
- Ministerial Orders issued for:
 - Trucks now operating 24/7 to supply retail & grocery
 - Prohibition of secondary selling
 - Local governments effective management of food banks
- Confidence retail and grocery stores can operate safely (guidance documents)
- Declaration of Essential Services
- Activated PECC & PREOC

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6

COVID19 SUPPLY HUB

- Launched today
- Developed in 1 week by a local tech company, Supercluster, government and PHSA
- Will be focal point for business community to identify and direct new sources
- Triage for 1000s of offers of donations and sales
- Will allow province to filter and verify more quickly, so we can get supplies faster

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B.C. has declared a state of emergency. Learn about COVID-19 health issues. | Get COVID-19 Pr

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Home > Public Safety & Emergency Services > Emergency Preparedness, Response & Recovery >

In This Together - Help B.C. Combat COVID-19

Calling All Suppliers

Are you a business that can supply products and services in support of B.C.'s COVID-19 response?

As worldwide demand increases, the B.C. Government is looking for both medical and non-medical products and services to help with the response.

Last Updated: **March 30, 2020**

Priority Products Needed

The products of greatest value to provincial efforts addressing COVID-19 are medical in nature.

If you can **donate or supply** products from the list below you are invited to submit an offer.

[View Canadian criteria for priority medical supplies](#)

Priority Products		
N95 Masks	Surgical Masks	Disinfectant Wipes (Tubs and Cans)
Face Mask (Aseptic with Face Loop)	Nitrile Gloves (Pairs) - Powder Free	Viral Swabs
Surgical Mask with attached shield	Level 3 Gowns	Isolation Gowns
Surgical Mask Paediatric	Hand Sanitizer	Vinyl Gloves - Latex Free - 3G
Face Shields	Thermometer	Zip Lock Bags
	Level 2 Gowns	Hand Sanitizer Foam

[Submit Offer - Priority Products](#)

PUBLIC SERVICE CALL TO ACTION

- Direction for public sector and partners:
Find critical supplies that can be redistributed to PHSA
- First wave:
 - ✓ 31,500 N95 masks
 - ✓ 10,450 surgical masks
 - ✓ 60,000 viral swabs
 - ✓ 35,200 gloves (pairs)
 - ✓ 670 gowns
 - ✓ 700 aseptic face masks w/ ear loop
 - ✓ 11 face shields
 - ✓ 503L of Bleach
- Second wave expected by Friday



RALLYING THE PRIVATE SECTOR

Copyright

- Private sector stepping up with supplies and innovative solutions
 - ✓ Distillers/brewers producing hand sanitizer
 - ✓ Arc'teryx and Mustang Survival developing re-usable medical garment prototypes
 - ✓ Post secondary institutions offering 3D printing; Phillips Brewery starting to produce face shields
 - ✓ Lifesciences companies gathering supplies and sending to PHSA
- Province now completing purchase of 600,000L of hand sanitizer from Parallel 49 Brewing
- Opportunity to coordinate and scale manufacturing for medium-term

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SOURCING IN CHINA

- Brought in multinational horsepower and business networks to run down new sources in China
- Established a “911 line” between PHSA, EMBC and CITZ for accelerated purchase approvals
- Orders Placed: 400k surgical masks
- Orders in the pipe: 1.6M N95 masks, 400k KN95 masks

As of March 30, 2020, 5PM PST						
# Leads	# Passing Filter #1	# Contacted	# Passing Filter #2	# for PHSA Evaluation	# Vetted by PHSA	Orders Placed
700+	240	120	23	8	2	1

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IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS

- Redeploy staff in key functions
 - E.g. 90 public servants to support PHSA
- Establishing “chase teams” to determine technical, commercial and financial viability of new offers/items
- Communications strategy: *Everyone has a role to play*
- Broadly adopt conservation strategies for critical products, in line with health sector
- Escalation of action from voluntary to forced redistribution of critical products (if required)



Cabinet Committee

COVID-19 AGENDA ITEMS – April 1, 2020:

Topic		Lead or Facilitator	Materials
1.	Public Health Update	Minister Dix Stephen Brown	
2.	EMBC Update	Minister Farnworth Lori Halls	
3.	Supply Chain Management	Minister Farnworth Lori Halls	
4.	BC Hydro Covid Response	Minister Ralston	



Covid-19 Deputy Ministers' Committee

Tuesday – April 14, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

In person: s.12; s.15; s.17
Dial In: s.12; s.15; s.17
s.12; s.15; s.17

AGENDA

	Topic	Lead or Facilitator	Materials	Attachment #
1.	Update on Health Developments (20 mins)	S. Brown		
2.	Update on EMBC (15 Min)	L. Halls	Materials	2
3.	Supply Chain Management Update (20 mins)	L. Gaber	Presentation	3
4.	Cabinet Committee Agenda and Material for April 15 (5 mins)	D. Wright	Agenda	4



Covid-19 Deputy Ministers' Committee

Tuesday – April 14, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

In person: Cabinet Chambers
Dial In: Victoria: (250) 952-9304 - Id: 2567940#
Toll-Free: 1 (888) 952-9304 - Id: 2567940#

AGENDA

	Topic	Lead or Facilitator	Materials	Attachment #
1.	Update on Health Developments (20 mins)	S. Brown		
2.	Update on EMBC (15 Min)	L. Halls	Materials	2
3.	Supply Chain Management Update (20 mins)	L. Gaber	Presentation	3
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COVID-19 Supply Chain Update

PPE for Essential Services

Deputy Ministers – April 14, 2020

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KEY MESSAGES

- Global supply chains continue to be disrupted
 - Quality and quantity challenges
 - Likely to continue into summer and potentially fall
- Health sector managing some PPE items with only 5-7 day buffer
 - N95 masks biggest challenge, other items on rolling basis
 - Burn rate modelling underway
- Other essential services have significant unmet PPE needs
- Call to action - Assess all essential services beyond health to:
 - Determine specific PPE needs
 - Implement PPE mitigation/conservation strategies

BC'S ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Category	# of Essential Service Groupings	Examples
Health	2	Hospitals, LTCs, paramedics, medical testing
First responders, public safety	7	Law enforcement, corrections
Vulnerable populations	11	Food banks, mental-health facilities
Critical infrastructure	4	Utilities, wastewater treatment facilities
Food/Agriculture	8	Farms, grocery stores, food processing
Transport/Infrastructure/manufacturing	28	Trucking, warehousing
Sanitation	4	Cleaning services, waste collection
Communications/IT	4	Communications critical infrastructure, media services
Other non-health essential services	27	Banks, education institutions

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3

PROBLEM DEFINITION – NON-HEALTH SUPPLIES

- Many non-health essential service providers & communities identifying PPE needs
 - Some needs are OHS/regulatory related
 - Some needs are perceived (e.g. broad need for N95 masks)
 - Some larger entities (e.g. Teck) still able to source PPE but most cannot
- Some non-health essential service providers have identified risk of business disruption
 - E.g. Food processing have signaled significant PPE shortages
- Incomplete line of sight for supply requirements as critical sectors re-open to support recovery

ADDRESSING SUPPLY

Integrated approach across government & health sector to meet extremely high demand

- PPE being secured by PHSA, regional health authorities, federal government, mutual aid among provinces
- Local manufacturing of critical items
 - Sanitizer, surgical masks, gowns, face shields
- Federal government investing in medium term manufacturing opportunities (e.g. N95 masks, ventilators)

ADDRESSING SUPPLY

Supply Hub launched and funnelling opportunities/donations to PHSA

- 2,600 offers to date (includes 69 unique PPE donors)

Item	Quantity Donated	# of Donations
Face shields	10,004,677	11
Respirator filters	10,000,020	2
N95 masks	5,033,604	30
Surgical gloves	5,000,001	2
Goggles	500,001	2
Other (including various masks, sanitizer, gowns, ventilators, etc.)	342,330	62
Total	30,880,648	109

(many of these donations still being vetted by PHSA)

- Majority of offers are for procurement (in process of being actioned)

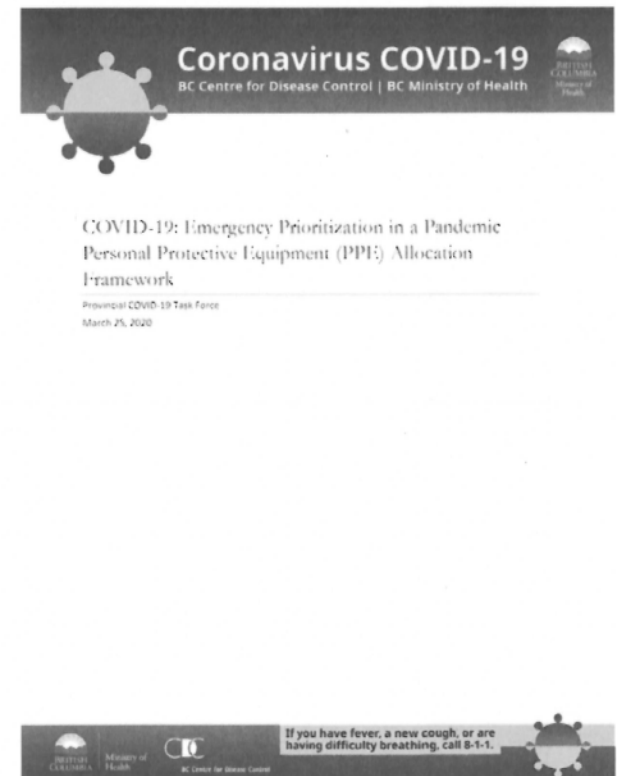
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ADDRESSING DEMAND – WORK TO DATE

- PPE allocation framework for health sector activated
 - Conservation, prioritization
- Some non-health essential service providers employing individual mitigation measures
 - E.g. FCABC coordinating conservation/sharing across fire depts
 - Public service providers installing plexiglass barriers
- Created integrated process to accept supply requests from essential service providers
 - Will action when supplies available

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NON-HEALTH PRIORITIZATION FRAMEWORK

- Principled framework to prioritize PPE that builds off and works in conjunction with the Health framework
 - Health sector remains priority #1 for health PPE
 - Surplus health PPE and non-health PPE will be prioritized to best/highest use
- Framework will be used with provincial demand model to inform sourcing and prioritization decisions
- Framework will help inform supply prioritization (PPE and other) for sectors reopening to support recovery

CALL TO ACTION

Asking all ministries to work with the supply chain coordination unit to:

- Quickly assess and implement appropriate PPE mitigation/conservation strategies for all non-health essential services
- Determine overall PPE demand for non-health essential services
 - Conduct risk assessment to determine COVID related PPE needs
 - Determine OHS/regulatory requirements given current environment
 - Determine demand from each sector given COVID impacts

Self Isolation Plan - Stats
Daily Stats for April 12, 2020

	Description	Summary		
		Daily Total	Previous 24 hours	YTD Since April 10
	Total Vehicle Passengers	192	240	644
	Total Air Arrivals	274	463	1,057
	Total Arrivals	466	703	1,701
	SI Plan No Support Required	261	307	
	SI Plan Support Required	21	50	-
	SI Plan for Future Travel (note 2)	-	560	-
	Duplicate, out of province, test, essential worker forms (note 2)	-	437	-
	Total Registered (note 1)	282	357	1,874
	Red Cross Accomodation	-	-	-
	Provincial Accomodation	-	9	13
	Total provided Accomodation	-	9	13
	Calls Confirmed SI plan being followed		82	
	Call not answered		105	
	Referred to PSSG		4	
	Referred to Tier 2 for followup		16	
	Total Calls	-	207	

Notes:

1. SI Plans registered includes invalid forms (tests, duplicates); to be cleaned up and reconciled. Support required indicates support for accomodation and supplies (medication, groceries, etc.)
2. As of Apr 11; not included in total registered plans; may not be reported in future stats

Land	Land Travellers	Daily Total			Previous 24 hours			YTD total since April 10		
	Land Crossing	Vehicles	Passengers	Accom.	Vehicles	Passengers	Accom.	Vehicles	Passengers	Accom.
	Pacific Border Crossing	62	77	-	63	78	-	189	229	-
	Douglas	57	70	-	84	105	2	210	262	2
	Boundary Crossing	48	57	-	80	87	-	188	210	-
	Osoyoos	25	39	-	13	19	-	57	90	-
	Total	192	243	-	240	289	2	644	791	2

Air	Air Travellers	Daily Total			Previous 24 hours			YTD total since April 10		
	Air Arrival	Flights	Passengers	Accom.	Flights	Passengers	Accom.	Flights	Passengers	Accom.
	YVR	11	274	-	9	463	7	31	1,057	11
	Total	11	274	-	9	463	7	31	1,057	11

SI Plan	SI Plans Registered (entered on-line)	April 12	11-Apr	10-Apr	09-Apr	08-Apr	YTD Since April 10
		SI Plans Registered	282	357	575	480	180
	No Support Required	261	307				
	Support Required	21	50				

SI Plan	SI Plan Submitted	Daily Total			Previous 24 hours			YTD total since April 10		
		Registered	No Support	Support	Registered	No Support	Support	Registered	No Support	Support
	Self Isolation Plans	282	261	21	357	307	50			
	Total	282	261	21	357	307	50	1,874	568	71

Note: Interim Form solution started April 8th (no support detail available); Form solution upgrade implemented April 11 with improved reporting

Date	Land Border/YVR	Number of travellers contacted	Number of vehicles contacted	Number of travellers directed to CRC accommodations
April 10, 2020 (two shifts)	Pacific	74	64	0
April 10, 2020 (two shifts)	Osoyoos	32	19	0
April 10, 2020 (two shifts)	Douglas	87	69	0
April 10, 2020 (two shifts)	Boundary	66	60	0
10-Apr-20 YVR (11 flights)		320		5

Self Isolation Plan - Stats
Daily Stats for April 11, 2020

	Description	Daily Total	Previous 24 hours	YTD Since April 10
Summary	Total Vehicle Passengers	240	212	452
	Total Air Arrivals	463	320	783
	Total Arrivals	703	532	1,235
	SI Plan No Support Required	307	Reporting Not available	
	SI Plan Support Required	50	Reporting Not available	-
	Total Registered (note 1)	357	575	1,592
	Red Cross Accomodation	-	-	-
	Provincial Accomodation	9	4	13
	Total provided Accomodation	9	4	13
	Calls Confirmed SI plan being followed	82		
	Call not answered	105		
	Referred to PSSG	4		
	Referred to Tier 2 for followup	16		
	Total Calls	207		

Notes:

1. SI Plans registered includes invalid forms (tests, duplicates); to be cleaned up and reconciled. Support required indicates support for accomodation and supplies (medication, groceries, etc.)

Land	Land Travellers	Daily Total			Previous 24 hours			YTD total since April 10		
		Vehicles	Passengers	Accom.	Vehicles	Passengers	Accom.	Vehicles	Passengers	Accom.
	Pacific Border Crossing	63	78	-	64	74	-	127	152	-
	Douglas	84	105	2	69	87		153	192	2
	Boundary Crossing	80	87	-	60	66		140	153	-
	Osoyoos	13	19	-	19	32		32	51	-
	Total	240	289	2	212	259	-	452	548	2

Air	Air Travellers	Daily Total			Previous 24 hours			YTD total since April 10		
		Flights	Passengers	Accom.	Flights	Passengers	Accom.	Flights	Passengers	Accom.
	YVR	9	463	7	11	320	4	20	783	11
	Total	9	463	7	11	320	4	20	783	11

SI Plan	SI Plans Registered (entered on-line)	11-Apr	10-Apr	09-Apr	08-Apr	YTD Since April 10
	SI Plans Registered	357	575	480	180	1,592
	No Support Required	307				
	Support Required	50				

SI Plan	SI Plan Submitted	Daily Total			Previous 24 hours			YTD total since April 10		
		Registered	No Support	Support	Registered	No Support	Support	Registered	No Support	Support
	Self Isolation Plans	357	307	50	575	-	-			
	Total	357	307	50	575	-	-	1,592	307	50

Note: Interim Form solution started April 8th (no support detail available); Form solution upgrade implemented April 11 with improved reporting



Cabinet Committee

COVID-19 AGENDA ITEMS – April 15, 2020:

Topic		Lead or Facilitator	Materials
1.	Health Update	Minister Dix	
2.	EMBC Update	Minister Farnworth	



Covid-19 Deputy Ministers' Committee

Tuesday – April 21, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

In person: s.12; s.15; s.17

Dial In: s.12; s.15; s.17

Toll-Free: s.12; s.15; s.17

AGENDA

	Topic	Lead or Facilitator	Materials	Attach #
1.	Update on Health Developments (10 mins)	S. Brown		
2.	Update on EMBC (10 mins)	L. Halls	OICs/Orders	2
3.	Supply Chain (30 mins) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prioritization• Economic Restart	S. Brownsey L. Gaber	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PPT Presentation• Non-Health Essential Services Priorities• Non-Health PPE Allocation Framework	3
4.	Government Operations Restart Plan (10 mins)	J. Kot		

COVID-19 Orders

April 20 update

ORDER	CONTEXT
Order-in-Council New	
Employment Standards Act	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the OIC will create a regulation pursuant to s. 127(2)(a) of the <i>Employment Standards Act</i> that will apply to employees temporarily laid off for reasons related to the COVID-19 emergency - the regulation will have the effect of extending the term employers are permitted to lay off their employees by three weeks, from the current 13 weeks in any period of 20 consecutive weeks to 16 weeks in any period of 20 consecutive weeks - sixteen weeks corresponds with the term of the federal CERB benefits which are provided to qualifying workers for up to 16 weeks
Provincial Sales Tax Act & Financial Administration Act	Provides relief for operators of vehicles such as buses or transport trucks that operate in multiple jurisdictions and may no longer be doing so because of business impacts from COVID-19 or have decided to operate in BC only for the time being

ORDER	CONTEXT
Ministerial Order Under EPA New	
Delegation to Suspend Court Rules	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - suspending the application of BC Supreme Court Civil and Family Rules that preclude the hearing of applications by remote means (video or telephone) or written submissions during the COVID-19 State of Emergency - order will authorize the Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice ("ACJ") to order that specific provisions of the Supreme Court Civil Rules ("SCCR") and Supreme Court Family Rules ("SCFR") not apply in specific cases where applying those provisions would preclude the hearing of applications by way of remote communications (video and teleconferencing) and written submissions
Improvement Districts, Islands Trust and Local Government Obligations and Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the first two requests relate to Improvement Districts and Islands Trust bodies - they are creatures of statute - the former established under the <i>Local Government Act</i>, the latter by the <i>Islands Trust Act</i> - they are not local authorities for the purpose of the EPA (and not caught by MO83), they do exercise many 'local authority' like powers and have some similar obligations and limitations placed upon them by their

	<p>legislation – including requirements for public access to meetings and limits on the ability to meet electronically</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - both improvement districts and the Islands Trust need to continue to meet, and make decisions, over the course of the State of Provincial Emergency – and are petitioning the Province for a solution - the third request relates to ‘public hearings’ held by local governments - these hearings are necessary for certain types of zoning and land use decisions to be made by a local government and these hearings are not the same as a local government Council or Board meeting – and are governed by their own legislative provisions (and hence not caught by MO83) - there are a number of critical reasons why these decisions still need to be made by local governments during the State of Provincial Emergency - the proposed order will allow these meetings to proceed electronically – and will maintain the requirement that members of the public be allowed to provide written comments about the subject of the hearings
<p>Requirements for New and On-going Requests for Assistance under Employment and Assistance Acts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SDPR is facing challenges in responding quickly to new requests for assistance under the <i>Employment and Assistance Act</i> (“EA Act”) and the <i>Employment and Assistance for Persons with Disabilities Act</i> (“EAPWD Act”) and in dealing with new applicants and existing recipients who have limited access to information technology, or who simply have difficulty engaging with Ministry personnel to address eligibility issues - dealing with the latter two groups is particularly difficult because it is nearly impossible to avoid face-to-face or near face-to face interaction and the execution of documents in hardcopy - SDPR’s key objective is to avoid as much as possible the need for applicants and recipients to attend at Ministry offices or Government Agents and significantly reduce person-to-person contact among applicants and recipients and between Ministry staff and applicants/recipients - there is established by the EA Act and EAPWD Act and Regulations made under them requirements related to determining eligibility for assistance, which for a certain segment of SDPR applicants and recipients makes avoiding person-to-person contact in Ministry or Government Agent offices almost impossible - the central requirement that creates the challenge facing the Ministry is regular reporting of information to the Ministry that is mandatory to continue to be eligible for income assistance or disability assistance and necessary for determining the amount of assistance an eligible family unit will receive
<p>Local Government Financial Matters Cabinet and TB approval received</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - request for an EPA Order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. postpone late payment penalties for commercial property taxes (this could possibly be achieved under the FAA) b. allow local governments to use funds from their ‘statutory reserve fund’ for emergency expenses – with the requirement that these funds be repaid over a year period

	<p>c. allow 'revenue anticipation borrowing' to take into account an additional year's worth of anticipated revenue than currently permitted under the local government legislation, and extend the time period over which that revenue is to be used to pay back the borrowed funds</p> <p>d. postpone statutory deadlines for filing requirements with the Province</p> <p>e. allow local governments to delay the statutory date for property tax sales until 2021</p>
Protection Against Liability (update to M094)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - repeal and replace of M094 to reflect changes to the essential services list - provides general liability protection (immunity) for operational essential services from claims from employees and individuals who contract COVID-19 provided that those entities were following applicable emergency and public health guidance - <i>ongoing engagement with legal on ways to make future changes to the essential services list without the need to repeal and replace the Ministerial Order</i>
Encampments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consideration of two Orders, one to lay out the expectations related to encampments and the second to provide the necessary authorities to enforce those in non compliance

Table 1. Prioritized Essential Services List

Sector	Activities	Responsible Ministry
Priority 1		
Health and Health Services	Psychiatric units, medical clinics, COVID19 research	AEST, MCF
Law enforcement, public safety, first responders, emergency response personnel	First Responders – police, fire	EMBC, FLNRORD, MAH, PSSG
	Substance use and addictions services including outreach workers	MAH, MCF, MMHA
	Corrections and Detainment	MCF, PSSG
	Border Security	EMBC, FLNRORD, TRAN
	Court Services - Sheriffs	PSSG
	Public Safety – First aid	AEST, FLNRORD, PSSG
	Protective services – Child protection workers	MCF
	Maintenance of infrastructure to comply with health and public safety orders: critical incident response	MAH
Priority 2		
Other Non-Health Essential Service Providers	Coroners Service	PSSG
Vulnerable Population Service Providers	Single-room occupancy housing and emergency shelters Transitional, social and supportive housing Residential and care facilities Urban Indigenous support services Remote Indigenous communities	EMBC, HLTH, MAH, MCF, MMHA, SDPR
Law enforcement, public safety, first responders, emergency response personnel	Search and rescue and other public safety volunteers	CITZ, EMBC, PSSG
Priority 3		
Law enforcement, public safety, first responders, emergency response personnel	Communications/dispatching support for first responders	CITZ, EMBC, FLNRORD, PSSG
	Court services; Litigators (Barrister), bylaw enforcement	AG, MAH, PSSG
	Support of defence mandate and support the Canadian Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary	PSSG
Vulnerable Population Service Providers	Businesses, government and non-profits that provide care, food, shelter, social, and support services, and other necessities of life	CITZ, MAH, MCF, MIRR, SDPR

Sector	Activities	Responsible Ministry
	for economically disadvantaged or otherwise vulnerable individuals	
	Food banks, community kitchens, voluntary and community service providers	HLTH, JEDC, MAH, MCF, PSSG
	Child care services for essential workers	AEST, EDU, MCF
	Caregivers for children in care and out of care	MCF
	Public washrooms, hygiene facilities, parks and greenspace for unsheltered persons	MAH, SDPR
Food and Agriculture Service Providers	Food processing, manufacturing, storage, transportation and distribution of foods, feed products and beverages	AGRI
	Businesses that provide for the health and welfare of animals,	AEST, AGRI
	Inspection services and associated regulatory and government workforce and supporting businesses required for slaughter, rendering, and processing of animals, dairy production, and food safety	AGRI
Critical Infrastructure	Non-health laboratories	EMPR, ENV, FLNRORD, JEDC
	Support, operations and staff critical in supporting electricity, drinking water, waste water, drainage, steam, alternative energy production, chemical and industrial gas, waste and hazardous waste/material management, industrial recycling, oil and natural and propane gas, fuel, petroleum, crude oil and other fuel sources	ENV, EMPR, HLTH, MAH
Industry and Manufacturing	Businesses that extract, manufacture, process and distribute goods, products, equipment and materials necessary for the continued and immediate operation of other essential infrastructure and businesses	FLNRORD, JEDC
	Businesses that manufacture inputs to other manufacturers	JEDC
	Businesses that ensure global continuity of supply of primary and value-added forestry/silviculture products	FLNRORD
	Businesses that ensure global continuity of supply of mining materials and products	EMPR
Other Non-Health Essential Service Providers	Workers performing or supporting mortuary services	PSSG
	Services necessary to maintain the safety, sanitation, and daily essential operation of residences and commercial buildings	MAH

Sector	Activities	Responsible Ministry
	Construction, skilled trades, and professionals	JEDC
	Public post secondary institutions—for purposes of facilitating remote learning or performing essential functions	AEST
Sanitation	Manufacturing of sanitary products, household paper products, chemicals, microelectronics/semi-conductor	AEST, JEDC
	Businesses that support environmental management/monitoring and spill clean-up and response,	ENV
	Management of industrial sewage/effluent	ENV
	Environmental laboratories	ENV
	Waste and recycling collection, processing, and disposal	ENV, MAH
Transportation	Workers who support the maintenance and operation of cargo	TRAN
	Private and public transportation services	TRAN
Priority 4 with moderate PPE or cleaning supply needs		
Vulnerable Population Service Providers	Community services and outreach for immigrant, refugees, vulnerable populations and non-market housing	MCFD, SDPR
	Schools and other entities that provide free food services to students or members of the public	EDU
Food and Agriculture Service Providers	Businesses that support the food supply chain	AGRI, JEDC
	Restaurants and other facilities that prepare and serve food	JEDC
	Retail sale or provision of food, pet or livestock supply, liquor, cannabis, and any other household consumer products	AG, AGRI
	Products necessary to maintaining the safety, sanitation, and essential daily operation of residences	JEDC
Other Non-Health Essential Service Providers	K-12 school for purposes of facilitating remote learning or performing essential functions	EDU
	Hotels and places of accommodation	TAC
	All government functions or services, including functions or services provided by agencies, crown corporations, contractors or service providers, and government owned or leased buildings	CITZ, MAH
Transportation	Services and facilities that facilitate interprovincial/intra-provincial transportation of essential supplies, personnel, and services	CITZ, TRAN
56 other priority 4 essential services have low or no PPE or cleaning supplies needs and are not listed		

Non-Health PPE Allocation Framework

A Principled Prioritization Framework for the Allocation of Critical Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and Cleaning Supplies to non-Health Sector Essential Services

A principled prioritization framework is being developed to guide the allocation of critical supplies, including personal protection equipment (PPE) and cleaning and disinfectant supplies to essential services outside of the health and health services sector. This framework is being developed in keeping with principles defined in the *COVID-19 Ethical Decision-Making Framework* and in particular, the principles of fairness, reciprocity, proportionality, flexibility, and procedural justice.

The first step in developing the framework was a high-level prioritization of the essential service categories based on the *BC Emergency Management System* response goals. Health services defined in the *COVID-19: Emergency Prioritization in a Pandemic Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Allocation Framework* (Allocation Framework) are the highest priority for medical-grade supplies and are out of scope of this framework, which applies to all other essential services as follows:

1. Health and health services not included within the Allocation Framework
2. Law enforcement, public safety, first responders and emergency response personnel
3. Vulnerable population services providers
4. Other health and non-health-related essential service providers including critical infrastructure, food and agriculture service providers, transportation, industry and manufacturing, sanitation, communications/information technology, financial institutions, and other non-health essential service providers

The next step in developing the framework was to break down the essential services categories into a more detailed list and adjust the prioritized list as appropriate based on broad critical supply needs related to occupational health and safety (OHS) requirements and COVID-19 related risks. Specific factors considered include:

- Essential service workers risk of exposure to COVID-19 (e.g., close contact for prolonged periods where engineered solutions are not possible);
- Risk of harm from infection (e.g., populations that are older, immune-compromised or with underlying medical conditions);
- Risk of essential service worker being a vector for transmission (e.g., interacting with multiple vulnerable populations);
- Ability to mitigate COVID-19 related risk through administrative (e.g., physical distancing of staff/clients) and engineering approaches (e.g., plexiglass barrier);
- Specific OHS needs;
- Highly-specialized workforces and mission-essential personnel; and
- Unintended consequences (social, economic, etc.) of an essential service running out of critical supplies.

A draft of the prioritized essential services list was reviewed by the ADM Supply Chain Working Group. There was general agreement with the list, with specific feedback leading to some reprioritization, and further break down of essential service providers (see Table 1 for a summary table of the draft prioritized list).

Next Steps

To complete the framework and begin making informed PPE allocation decisions, the following actions need to be completed:

#	Action	Timeline
1	Have all ministries responsible for non-health essential services engage with essential service providers to ensure appropriate PPE conservation/mitigation strategies are put in place.	Ongoing
2	Determine the precise PPE/cleaning supply needs for non-health essential services (initial focus being on Priorities 1 and 2), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a risk assessment to determine COVID-19 related PPE needs (i.e., medical PPE); and • Determine OHS related PPE needs and determine whether requirements should be adjusted based on the current environment. 	Priority 1: April 26 th Priority 2: May 3 rd Priority 3: TBD Priority 4: TBD
3	Conduct targeted OHS related risk assessments of essential services (e.g. municipal drinking water facilities) to determine if additional re-prioritizations are necessary.	Ongoing
4	Determine the surplus threshold above which medical PPE (i.e. from the health PPE allocation framework) will be allocated beyond the health sector.	April 26 th
5	Finalize the rule set that will inform how surplus PPE/cleaning supplies are allocated across essential services.	April 26 th
6	Complete provincial demand/supply model for PPE/cleaning supplies and apply the non-health PPE allocation framework for allocation decisions.	Model complete on April 24 th and can be applied as priorities in #2 are completed

Detailed communication packages are being developed to support ministries as they work with essential service providers to determine precise PPE needs and institute PPE conservation/mitigation strategies while not raising expectations with respect to the availability of PPE.

COVID-19 Supply Chain Update

Non-Health PPE Allocation Framework

Deputy Ministers – April 21, 2020

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KEY MESSAGES

- List of prioritized essential services has been validated by ministries
- Work continuing to complete allocation framework
 - Implementation of PPE conservation/mitigation strategies
 - Understand precise PPE/cleaning supply needs focused on priorities 1 and 2
 - Provincial demand model for PPE/cleaning supplies
- To enable recovery, new approach needed to secure critical supplies (current focus on PPE/cleaning supplies)
 - Bulk procurement and distribution based on provincial demand model and allocation framework
 - Leverage the private sector (e.g. manufacturing, logistics, purchasing)

FRAMEWORK

- Foundation of framework
 - Fairness, reciprocity, proportionality, flexibility, procedural justice
 - BC Emergency Management System response goals
- High level Priorities
 1. Health and health services not included in Health Allocation Framework
 2. Law enforcement, public safety, first responders, emergency personnel
 3. Vulnerable population service providers
 4. Other health and non-health service providers
- All ministries have provided input to draft prioritized list
- broad agreement on approach and list

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PRIORITY #1 ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Sector	Essential Service Grouping	Responsible Ministry
Health & health services	Psychiatric units, medical clinics, COVID19 research	AEST, HLTH, MCF
Law enforcement, public safety, first responders, emergency personnel	First Responders – police, fire	EMBC, FLNRORD, HLTH, MAH, PSSG
	Substance use and addictions services including outreach workers	HLTH, MAH, MMHA
	Corrections and Detainment	MCF, PSSG
	Border Security	EMBC, FLNRORD
	Court Services - Sheriffs	PSSG
	Public Safety – First aid	AEST, FLNRORD, HLTH, PSSG
	Protective services – Child protection workers	MCF
	Maintenance of infrastructure to comply with health and public safety orders: critical incident response	MAH

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PRIORITY #2 ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Sector	Essential Service Grouping	Responsible Ministry
Other Non-Health Essential Service Providers	Coroners Service	PSSG
Vulnerable Population Service Providers	Single-room occupancy housing and emergency shelters Transitional, social and supportive housing Residential and care facilities Urban Indigenous support services Remote Indigenous communities	EMBC, HLTH, MAH, MCF, MMHA, SDPR
Law enforcement, public safety, first responders, emergency response personnel	Search and rescue and other public safety volunteers	CITZ, EMBC, FLNRORD, PSSG

PRIORITY #3 & 4 ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Priority #3

- 29 essential service groupings
- E.g. various manufacturing, food processing/inspection, bylaw enforcement

Priority #4

- 66 essential service groupings
- 56 have low or no PPE or cleaning supply needs

NEXT STEPS

Action	Timeline
1 Implement PPE conservation/mitigation strategies across all non-health essential services	Underway
2 Determine the precise PPE/cleaning supply needs for Priorities 1 and 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk assessment of COVID-19 related needs • OHS related needs 	Priority 1: April 26 th Priority 2: May 3 rd Priority 3 & 4: TBD
3 Targeted OHS related risk assessments of essential services	Ongoing
4 Determine health surplus threshold above which PPE is allocated beyond health sector	April 26 th
5 Finalize rule set for allocated across essential services.	April 26 th
6 Complete provincial demand/supply model for PPE/cleaning supplies	April 24 th

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GETTING MORE SUPPLIES

- Demand for PPE/cleaning supplies continues to far exceed supply
 - May spike with successive waves
 - Many sectors/firms/communities will be unable to secure supplies into medium term
- Recovery phase (societal restart) includes both economic activities (e.g. industrial production) and public services (e.g. education)
 - Will increase demand
- Longer term recovery efforts provide an opportunity to build domestic supply security – *Build Back Better*
 - Upfront capital, offtake agreements needed
- Procurement processes not designed to acquire large quantities of goods in advance of defined need

NEW APPROACH TO SECURE SUPPLIES

- Bulk purchase supplies for distribution per framework and demand model
 - Discussions already underway between EMBC, CITZ, PHSA and FIN
 - Governance structure, financial framework
 - Would still be a “buyer” down the road, but would allow for stockpiling
- Issue an industrial challenge to private sector
 - *Help recovery by ensuring critical sectors of our economy have the supplies they need*
 - Taps into supply chain/logistics expertise of private sector in BC
 - Create sufficient incentive for existing businesses to pivot operations
 - Aggregate purchasing power
- If general agreement on concept, we will build business case and hit go



Covid-19 Deputy Ministers' Committee

Tuesday – April 28, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

In person: s.12; s.15; s.17

Dial In: s.12; s.15; s.17

Toll-Free: s.12; s.15; s.17

AGENDA

	Topic	Lead or Facilitator	Materials	Attach #
1.	Update on Health Developments (5 mins)	S. Brown		
2.	Update on EMBC (5 mins)	L. Halls	OICs/Orders	2
3.	Next Steps (50 mins)	S. Brown	PPT Deck – to be displayed via skype at meeting	

COVID-19 Orders
April 28 update

ORDER	CONTEXT
Order-in-Council New	
State of Emergency Extension OIC In process – to be dated April 28 and announced April 29	OIC Extensions to the Provincial Declaration of State of Emergency Ministerial Order required every 14 days.
Employment Standards Act Going to Cabinet April 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the OIC will create a regulation pursuant to s. 127(2)(a) of the <i>Employment Standards Act</i> that will apply to employees temporarily laid off for reasons related to the COVID-19 emergency - the regulation will have the effect of extending the term employers are permitted to lay off their employees by three weeks, from the current 13 weeks in any period of 20 consecutive weeks to 16 weeks in any period of 20 consecutive weeks - sixteen weeks corresponds with the term of the federal CERB benefits which are provided to qualifying workers for up to 16 weeks
Community Care and Assisted Living Act Targeting May 6 Cabinet	Amend the Child Care Licensing Regulation to extend certification expiry dates for registrants whose certification is expiring in 2020.
Gaming Control Act, Gaming Control Regulation	<p>The Gaming Control Regulation is to be amended to deal with the deferral of “anniversary date fees” that certain gaming industry participants who are registered under the <i>Gaming Control Act</i> are obliged to pay on the anniversary date of their registrations.</p> <p>The amendment is being made in order to eliminate unfairness and hardship, given that gaming facilities are unable to open at the present time.</p>

ORDER	CONTEXT
Ministerial Order Under EPA New	
Credit Union Incorporation Act	After MO116 was issued to address alternatives to in-person meetings for BC corporations, societies, stratas, and cooperatives, other areas of government raised the issue of extending the same kind of order to the credit unions to enable remote meetings.