

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX
Sent: April 6, 2021 3:38 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; 'Nicola Lambrechts'
Subject: FYI: Whistler Firefighters

FYI. VCH is looking into this one.

From: Godlonton, Brian EMBC:EX
Sent: April 6, 2021 2:32 PM
To: Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: URGENT: Whistler Firefighters

Madeline,

I have reached out to Fire Chief McKearney directly for an update following the one I he late last week. Please see the specifics below:

- s.22 of the department is currently in isolation tested positive with COVID-19 (s.22 awaiting results)
s.22
- They have a plan in place in the event others are exposed. This will include Paid on Call (POC) firefighters staffing up a second unit in a separate fire station as the POC's have reservations in working in the hotspot/outbreak location of fire station 1.
- Chief McKearney is in regular contact with BCCDC and Dr. John Harding regarding vaccines for his firefighters (s.13 s.13)
- Chief McKearney reported the morale is very low when the police and firefighters see 100's of other Whistler staff being prioritized over the first responders and when they get hurt it's the firefighters and police officers that respond to their assistance with no vaccine.
- The Whistler RCMP Superintendent has informed Chief McKearney that their RCMP Officers are very concerned to responding to support the firefighters and in fact do not want to be responding to what would have been mutual agency responses with the fear of being exposed from the firefighters. The RCMP Superintendent is in discussions with BCCDC (Dr. John Harding) and is reaching out directly to Dr. Henry with the community concerns for the vaccines for their police officers.
- Global news is interviewing the Whistler Mayor today at 3:00 and a number of these pieces will be brought forward.
- The Fire Chief has asked if there is anything we could do to support them as their staff are on the verge of burnout.
s.22

Brian