

FW: HLTH Media Request: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries

From: Thomson, Krystal GCPE:EX <Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca>
To: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 14, 2021 12:10:18 PM PDT

Hey can we check with HSD about the proposed response from VIHA?

Reporter

Cindy Harnett, Reporter
Times Colonist
CHarnett@timescolonist.com
250-380-5348 c: 250-213-3603

Deadline Tuesday, September 14, 2021 4:00 PM

Request

We want to do a story today on how busy our ICUs are with COVID patients - RJH VGH NANAIMO and if possible COMOX - and the need for vaccination so as not to threaten surgeries etc.

Can you provide the someone to speak to the numbers in our icus with covid, the number without, where we are in terms of capacity, and is capacity as I imagine more to do with staffing than actual physical space/machines/beds.

Recommendation

s.13

Background

RE: KRISTY FOR RUSH REVIEW: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries

From: Butler, Janice HLTH:EX <Janice.Butler@gov.bc.ca>
To: Anderson, Kristy HLTH:EX <Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>, Cairns, Leann HLTH:EX <Leann.Cairns@gov.bc.ca>, HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Leverman, Charly HLTH:EX <Charly.Leverman@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 14, 2021 12:50:03 PM PDT
s.13

Jan

From: Anderson, Kristy HLTH:EX <Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 14, 2021 12:32 PM
To: Cairns, Leann HLTH:EX <Leann.Cairns@gov.bc.ca>; HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Butler, Janice HLTH:EX <Janice.Butler@gov.bc.ca>; Leverman, Charly HLTH:EX <Charly.Leverman@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: KRISTY FOR RUSH REVIEW: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries
I would agree. I went back to Krystal with that as she reached out directly as well.

Kristy Anderson

Executive Director, Access and Wait Times
Health Services Division, Ministry of Health
(250) 952-3387 (desk)
(250) 920-6324 (cell)
Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca

From: Cairns, Leann HLTH:EX <Leann.Cairns@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 14, 2021 12:27 PM
To: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Anderson, Kristy HLTH:EX <Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>; Butler, Janice HLTH:EX <Janice.Butler@gov.bc.ca>; Leverman, Charly HLTH:EX <Charly.Leverman@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: KRISTY FOR RUSH REVIEW: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries
Importance: High
Thanks Katrina.s.13
s.13
Thanks Leann

From: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 14, 2021 12:19 PM
To: Anderson, Kristy HLTH:EX <Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Butler, Janice HLTH:EX <Janice.Butler@gov.bc.ca>; Cairns, Leann HLTH:EX <Leann.Cairns@gov.bc.ca>; Leverman, Charly HLTH:EX <Charly.Leverman@gov.bc.ca>; HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: KRISTY FOR RUSH REVIEW: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries
Importance: High

Hi Kristy,

GCPE has asked us if we could please have you review the proposed response below provided by VIHA and advise if you have any major edits/concerns at your earliest convenience? This response is due by 4pm today.

Jan/Leann mostly including you as FYI only.

Thank you,

Katrina Brook

A/ Risk and Issues Analyst

Corporate Issues and Client Relations | Ministry of Health

Telephone: 778-974-2352 | Email: Katrina.Brook@gov.bc.ca

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To: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: HLTH Media Request: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries

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Recommendation

s.13

Background

RE: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries

From: Thomson, Krystal GCPE:EX <Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca>
To: Stanker, Cheryl HLTH:EX <Cheryl.Stanker@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 15, 2021 10:17:05 AM PDT

Hi Cheryl,
s.13

Thanks,
Krystal

From: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: September 14, 2021 1:04 PM

To: Thomson, Krystal GCPE:EX <Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries

s.13

We'll stand down for now but please let us know if you need anything else.

Leah

Leah Baade (she/her)

Team Lead, Risk and Issues Management

Corporate Issues & Client Relations Branch

Ministry of Health

236-478-1364 | leah.baade@gov.bc.ca

Grateful to live, work and learn on the traditional territories of the Ləkʷəŋən people

From: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: September 14, 2021 12:44 PM

To: Thomson, Krystal GCPE:EX <Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries

Hi Krystal,

Just want to confirm you're working on this with Kristy s.13

She said you

reached out directly. Just don't want to double the work if someone is already on it!

Thanks,

Angela Thorneloe (she/her)

Risk and Issues Analyst

Corporate Issues and Client Relations Branch

Ministry of Health

D: 236-478-3044 C: 250-812-1362 | Angela.Thorneloe@gov.bc.ca

Grateful to live and work on the traditional territories of the WSÁNEĆ and Lekwungen people.

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From: Thomson, Krystal GCPE:EX <Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: September 14, 2021 12:31 PM

To: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries

That's what I'm hoping HSD can advise on

From: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 14, 2021 12:31 PM
To: Thomson, Krystal GCPE:EX <Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries
Importance: High

Hi Krystal,
Program has the question below regarding the proposed response; can you please review and advise?
Thank you,
Katrina Brook
A/ Risk and Issues Analyst

Corporate Issues and Client Relations | Ministry of Health

Telephone: 778-974-2352 | Email: Katrina.Brook@gov.bc.ca

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Cc: Anderson, Kristy HLTH:EX <Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>; Butler, Janice HLTH:EX <Janice.Butler@gov.bc.ca>; Leverman, Charly HLTH:EX <Charly.Leverman@gov.bc.ca>
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Importance: High
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Thanks Leann

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Cc: Butler, Janice HLTH:EX <Janice.Butler@gov.bc.ca>; Cairns, Leann HLTH:EX <Leann.Cairns@gov.bc.ca>; Leverman, Charly HLTH:EX <Charly.Leverman@gov.bc.ca>; HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
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To: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: HLTH Media Request: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries
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Reporter

Cindy Harnett, Reporter

Times Colonist

CHarnett@timescolonist.com

250-380-5348 c: 250-213-3603

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Recommendation

s.13

Background

RE: FOR REVIEW/APPROVAL: HLTH Media Request: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries

From: Gudaitis, Paul HLTH:EX <Paul.Gudaitis@gov.bc.ca>
To: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>, Cairns, Leann HLTH:EX <Leann.Cairns@gov.bc.ca>, Shaver, Julie HLTH:EX <Julie.Shaver@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2021 10:35:33 AM PDT

s.13

Thanks.

From: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: September 16, 2021 10:19 AM

To: Cairns, Leann HLTH:EX <Leann.Cairns@gov.bc.ca>; Gudaitis, Paul HLTH:EX <Paul.Gudaitis@gov.bc.ca>; Shaver, Julie HLTH:EX <Julie.Shaver@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FOR REVIEW/APPROVAL: HLTH Media Request: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries

Importance: High

Hi Folks –

GCPE has asked for your review on the MR request below. VIAH has provided the response below. Once we have your feedback we will obtain the ED approvals (note we have to have all approvals obtained and back to GCPE by 1pm today)

Reporter

Cindy Harnett, Reporter

Times Colonist

CHarnett@timescolonist.com

250-380-5348 c: 250-213-3603

Deadline Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Request

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Recommendation – *VIHA to provide following response:*

s.13

Background

RE: RUSH: JAN FOR REVIEW/APPROVAL HLTH Media Request: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries

From: Butler, Janice HLTH:EX <Janice.Butler@gov.bc.ca>
To: Cairns, Leann HLTH:EX <Leann.Cairns@gov.bc.ca>, HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2021 11:44:45 AM PDT

Our emails are crossing ☺

Thanks for reviewing, Leann -- s.13
s.13

Thanks
Jan

From: Cairns, Leann HLTH:EX <Leann.Cairns@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2021 11:25 AM
To: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>; Butler, Janice HLTH:EX <Janice.Butler@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: RUSH: JAN FOR REVIEW/APPROVAL HLTH Media Request: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries
Hey Katrina. Sorry, I did flip this to Jan s.13

From: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2021 11:22 AM
To: Butler, Janice HLTH:EX <Janice.Butler@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Cairns, Leann HLTH:EX <Leann.Cairns@gov.bc.ca>; HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RUSH: JAN FOR REVIEW/APPROVAL HLTH Media Request: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries

Importance: High

Hi Jan,

Apologies but I am sending this to you without Leann's review/edits – we received this rush request an hour ago and did provide it to her as well as Surgical however I am certain she is tied up in meetings/ other work and as such hasn't been able to review.

GCPE has asked for your review on the MR request below. VIAH has provided the response below. Could you please advise of any edits/concerns at your earliest convenience. (note we have to have all approvals obtained and back to GCPE by 1pm today – Kristy has asked us to have Ross review following any comments/edits you may have)
s.13

Reporter

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Times Colonist
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250-380-5348 c: 250-213-3603

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Request

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Recommendation – VIHA to provide following response:

Background

Thank you,

Katrina Brook

A/ Risk and Issues Analyst

Corporate Issues and Client Relations | Ministry of Health

Telephone: 778-974-2352 | Email: Katrina.Brook@gov.bc.ca

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RE: FOR REVIEW/APPROVAL: HLTH Media Request: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries

From: Cairns, Leann HLTH:EX <Leann.Cairns@gov.bc.ca>
To: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>, Gudaitis, Paul HLTH:EX <Paul.Gudaitis@gov.bc.ca>, Shaver, Julie HLTH:EX <Julie.Shaver@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Butler, Janice HLTH:EX <Janice.Butler@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2021 11:45:41 AM PDT

I've confirmed the highlighted text. For Jan's final approval.
Leann

From: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2021 10:19 AM
To: Cairns, Leann HLTH:EX <Leann.Cairns@gov.bc.ca>; Gudaitis, Paul HLTH:EX <Paul.Gudaitis@gov.bc.ca>; Shaver, Julie HLTH:EX <Julie.Shaver@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FOR REVIEW/APPROVAL: HLTH Media Request: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries
Importance: High

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250-380-5348 c: 250-213-3603

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Recommendation – *VIHA to provide following response:*

s.13

Background

NOT APPROVED: Media Request: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries

From: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
To: Thomson, Krystal GCPE:EX <Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2021 12:00:54 PM PDT

Hi Krystal,
s.13

Please advise if you will look to amend the response at all, or provide as is – Program has asked that we get ADM review/approval which we haven't done yet, as we wanted to provide ADM with most up to date version.

Thank you,

Katrina Brook

A/ Risk and Issues Analyst

Corporate Issues and Client Relations | Ministry of Health

Telephone: 778-974-2352 | Email: Katrina.Brook@gov.bc.ca

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From: Thomson, Krystal GCPE:EX <Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: September 16, 2021 10:14 AM

To: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: FW: HLTH Media Request: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries

Can we please run this by HSD and Surgical by 1pm today?

Thanks,

Krystal

Reporter

Cindy Harnett, Reporter

Times Colonist

CHarnett@timescolonist.com

250-380-5348 c: 250-213-3603

Deadline Tuesday, September 14, 2021 4:00 PM

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Recommendation – *VIHA to provide following response:*

s.13

Background

Re: NOT APPROVED: Media Request: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries

From: Thomson, Krystal GCPE:EX <Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca>
To: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2021 1:08:26 PM PDT

s.13

Thanks,
Krystal

From: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2021 12:01 PM
To: Thomson, Krystal GCPE:EX <Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: NOT APPROVED: Media Request: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries

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s.13

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Recommendation – VIHA to provide following response:

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RE: KRISTY/JAN FOR REVIEW/APPROVAL HLTH Media Request: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries

From: Anderson, Kristy HLTH:EX <Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>
To: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>, Butler, Janice HLTH:EX <Janice.Butler@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2021 2:37:07 PM PDT

I don't have anything to add.

Kristy Anderson

Executive Director, Access and Wait Times
Health Services Division, Ministry of Health
(250) 952-3387 (desk)
(250) 920-6324 (cell)
Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca

From: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: September 16, 2021 1:27 PM

To: Anderson, Kristy HLTH:EX <Kristy.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>; Butler, Janice HLTH:EX <Janice.Butler@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: KRISTY/JAN FOR REVIEW/APPROVAL HLTH Media Request: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries

Hi Kristy and Jan,

s.13

Do either of you have any further thoughts? Or are you ok with it going ahead as it/ with the addition of the extra bullet to Ross for his review?

Reporter

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Times Colonist
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250-380-5348 c: 250-213-3603

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RE: RUSH: ROSS FOR A/ADM REVIEW/APPROVAL HLTH Media Request: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries

From: Hayward, Ross HLTH:EX <Ross.Hayward@gov.bc.ca>
To: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Butler, Janice HLTH:EX <Janice.Butler@gov.bc.ca>, Wiman, Holly HLTH:EX <Holly.Wiman@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2021 3:36:07 PM PDT

No concerns

From: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: September 16, 2021 2:55 PM

To: Hayward, Ross HLTH:EX <Ross.Hayward@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>; Butler, Janice HLTH:EX <Janice.Butler@gov.bc.ca>; Wiman, Holly HLTH:EX <Holly.Wiman@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RUSH: ROSS FOR A/ADM REVIEW/APPROVAL HLTH Media Request: VIHA media request: Non-vaccinated threatening surgeries

Importance: High

Good Afternoon Ross,

Kristy requested that we provide the proposed MR response to you below for your review/approval please:

Kristy and Jan have both reviewed and confirmed the information provided below:s.13

s.13

Could you please advise if you have any edits/concerns with this response. GCPE would like to have it back ASAP.

Reporter

Cindy Harnett, Reporter

Times Colonist

CHarnett@timescolonist.com

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From: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
To: Thomson, Krystal GCPE:EX <Krystal.Thomson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: HLTH Health Issues HLTH:EX <HealthIssues@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 16, 2021 3:41:09 PM PDT

Hi Krystal,

Apologies for the delay; the response below has been approved by program A/ADM Ross Hayward with HSD.

Reporter

Cindy Harnett, Reporter
Times Colonist
CHarnett@timescolonist.com
250-380-5348 c: 250-213-3603

Deadline Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Request

We want to do a story today on how busy our ICUs are with COVID patients - RJH VGH NANAIMO and if possible COMOX - and the need for vaccination so as not to threaten surgeries etc.

Can you provide the someone to speak to the numbers in our icus with covid, the number without, where we are in terms of capacity, and is capacity as I imagine more to do with staffing than actual physical space/machines/beds.

Recommendation – *VIHA to provide following response:*

s.13

Background

Thank you,

Katrina Brook

A/ Risk and Issues Analyst

Corporate Issues and Client Relations | Ministry of Health

Telephone: 778-974-2352 | Email: Katrina.Brook@gov.bc.ca

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

Sullivan, Michelle A HLTH:EX

From: Galanis, Eleni [BCCDC] <Eleni.Galanis@bccdc.ca>
Sent: September 21, 2021 6:31 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Cc: XT:Smolina, Kate HLTH:IN; Gustafson, Reka HLTH:IN; Sandhu, Jatinder HLTH:IN; XT:Flatt, Alexandra HLTH:IN
Subject: Re: For Consideration: Interview Requests

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

Some KMs:
s.13

Let me know if you need more.
Eleni

Sent from my iPhone

> On Sep 21, 2021, at 5:48 PM, Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca> wrote:
>
> EXTERNAL SENDER. If you suspect this message is malicious, please forward to spam@phsa.ca and do not open attachments or click on links.
> -----
> -----
>
>
> Sorry was Penny DaClos asking about why we report COVID cases who are hospitalized versus all people in hospital who are COVID positive. It is the differential we discussed last week where the actual census data is different from what we report as percent of COVID cases that end up in hospital (ie a measure of severity).
> B
>
> Dr Bonnie Henry
> Provincial Health Officer
> Ministry of Health
> Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca
> s.17; s.19
>
> On Sep 21, 2021, at 4:26 PM, Smolina, Kate [BCCDC] <Kate.Smolina@bccdc.ca> wrote:
>
>
>
> [EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.
>

> Hi Bonnie, I can't seem to locate the actual question in the
> correspondence below...

>

> From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
> Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:15 PM
> To: Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC] <reka.gustafson@phsa.ca>; Smolina, Kate
> [BCCDC] <Kate.Smolina@bccdc.ca>; Galanis, Eleni [BCCDC]
> <Eleni.Galanis@bccdc.ca>
> Subject: Fwd: For Consideration: Interview Requests

>

> EXTERNAL SENDER. If you suspect this message is malicious, please forward to spam@phsa.ca<mailto:spam@phsa.ca>
and do not open attachments or click on links.

>

> _____
> Could you please help me draft a logical response to Penny's question below about hospitalization data?

> Dr Bonnie Henry
> Provincial Health Officer
> Ministry of Health
> Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca<mailto:Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca>
> s.17; s.19

>

> Begin forwarded message:

> From: "Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX"
> <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca<mailto:Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>>
> Date: September 21, 2021 at 3:29:16 PM PDT
> To: "Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX"
> <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca<mailto:Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>>
> Cc: "Thompson, Laurel HLTH:EX"
> <Laurel.Thompson@gov.bc.ca<mailto:Laurel.Thompson@gov.bc.ca>>,
> "XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN"
> <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca<mailto:nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>>, "Tounsi,
> Marielle GCPE:EX"
> <Marielle.Tounsi@gov.bc.ca<mailto:Marielle.Tounsi@gov.bc.ca>>
> Subject: For Consideration: Interview Requests Hi Dr. Henry,

>

> Two interview requests below for your consideration.

>

> For Penny Daflos, I am happy to draft a statement for your review if you would like to decline the interview request.

>

> COVID Follow-up Media Request: INTERVIEW REQ - Time Cleared COVID
> patients Reporter Penny Daflos, Reporter CTV News (BC)
> penny.daflos@bellmedia.ca<mailto:penny.daflos@bellmedia.ca>
> 604-787-1871
> Deadline ASAP

>

> Request

> I posed this question to Dr. Henry and I find the response very confusing, and I don't think I'm the only one. I don't
think Dr. Henry was intending to be evasive so I want to see if there's any way I can speak with her to clarify her position
on this and why there are two sets of books, as it were.

>

> If she can spare 10 minutes for a Zoom, I would be happy to use that answer in my story today rather than the one
from the presser.

>

>
>
> COVID Media Request: INTERVIEW REQ - CBC Morning Circuit - latest in
> COVID Reporter Kiran Singh, Producer CBC Early Edition
> kiran.singh@cbc.ca<mailto:kiran.singh@cbc.ca>
> 778-251-0084
> Deadline ASAP
>
> Request
> I'd like to invite either Dr. Bonnie Henry or Minister Adrian Dix on air with us.
>
> We are hoping to have either of them on tomorrow for this schedule:
>
> 6:37 AM - Early Edition with Stephen Quinn. Studio number:
> 604-669-3733 or 604-662-7157
> 6:50 AM - On the Island with Gregor Craigie. Studio number:
> 250-360-2227
> 7:00 AM - Daybreak Kamloops with Shelley Joyce. Studio number: 250 374
> 6837
> 7:10 AM - Daybreak South with Chris Walker. Studio number:
> 250-861-3781 OR 250-861-3272
> 7:33 AM - Daybreak North with Carolina de Ryk. Studio number:
> 250-624-8182
>
>
> Leah Holoiday
> COVID-19 Communications
> 250 880 2378
>
>

RE: For Minister/PHO Review/Approval: Daily IB

From: Cen, Calvin GCPE:EX <Calvin.Cen@gov.bc.ca>
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>, hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants <hlthmaea@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>, Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>, Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 1, 2021 5:29:21 PM PDT
Attachments: IB_COVID Daily Update_Sep 1 V2 522 pm.docx
Hi Minister and Dr. Henry,

Attached is the complete COVID-19 IB with the vaccination data provided by HSIAR. We'll publish it on your approvals.

Regards
Calvin

From: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 3:54 PM
To: Cen, Calvin GCPE:EX <Calvin.Cen@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants <hlthmaea@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>; Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: For Minister/PHO Review/Approval: Daily IB

Looks good.Let's roll

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 1, 2021, at 3:45 PM, Cen, Calvin GCPE:EX <Calvin.Cen@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Good afternoon Minister & Dr. Henry,

Attached is today's IB for your review. We've added a line to note that the complete update will be available at approximately 6pm.

And as some media are looking for clarification whether the ICU numbers are in addition to or part of the total hospitalizations, we also added this note to the IB for your consideration:

Note: Intensive care numbers are a subset of the total in hospital. They are not in addition to the number of people in hospital.

Regards
Calvin

Calvin Cen 岑建榮 | Public Affairs Officer
Ministry of Health
Government Communications & Public Engagement
Mobile: 778-886-9397
Calvin.Cen@gov.bc.ca

<IB_COVID Daily Update_Sep 1 340pm.docx>

INFORMATION BULLETIN

[release number]
Sep. 1, 2021

Ministry of Health

B.C. COVID-19 Pandemic Update

VICTORIA – As of Wednesday, Sep. 1, 2021, 84.5% (3,915,153) of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 76.7% (3,556,961) received their second dose.

In addition, 85.1% (3,682,078) of all eligible adults in B.C. have received their first dose and 77.7% (3,362,840) received their second dose.

B.C. is reporting 785 new cases of COVID-19, including five epi-linked cases, for a total of 166,853 cases in the province.

s.13

Note: Intensive care numbers are a subset of the total in hospital. They are not in addition to the number of people in hospital.

The new/active cases include:

- 246 new cases in Fraser Health
 - Total active cases: 1,504
- 110 new cases in Vancouver Coastal Health
 - Total active cases: 1,042
- 266 new cases in Interior Health
 - Total active cases: 2,299
- 94 new cases in Northern Health
 - Total active cases: 483
- 69 new cases in Island Health
 - Total active cases: 538
- no new cases of people who reside outside of Canada
 - Total active cases: seven

In the last 24 hours, two new deaths have been reported in the Vancouver Coastal Health and Island Health regions, for an overall total of 1,818.

There has been one new health-care facility outbreak at Arbutus Care Centre (Vancouver Coastal Health). The outbreak at Kootenay Street Village (Interior Health) has been declared over, for a total of 19 active outbreaks, including:

- long-term care: Heritage Village (Fraser Health), Arbutus Care Centre, Brock Fahrni (Vancouver Coastal Health), Village at Mill Creek – second floor, Nelson Jubilee Manor, Cottonwoods Care Centre, Brookhaven Care Centre, Spring Valley Care Centre, Kamloops Seniors Village (Interior Health) and Sunset Lodge (Island Health)
- acute care: Peace Arch Hospital, Chilliwack General Hospital (Fraser Health) and Fort St. John Hospital (Northern Health)
- assisted or independent living: Nicola Meadows, Hawthorn Park, David Lloyd Jones, Sun Pointe Village, Hardy View Lodge and Rose Woods Village (Interior Health)

From Aug. 24-30, people not fully vaccinated accounted for 80% of cases and from Aug. 17-30 they accounted for 83.4% of hospitalizations.

Past week cases (Aug. 24-30) – Total 4,783

- Not vaccinated: 3,325 (69.5%)
- Partially vaccinated: 503 (10.5%)
- Fully vaccinated: 955 (20.0%)

Past two weeks cases hospitalized (Aug. 17-30) – Total 253

- Not vaccinated: 190 (75.1%)
- Partially vaccinated: 21 (8.3%)
- Fully vaccinated: 42 (16.6%)

Past week, cases per 100,000 population (Aug. 24-30)

- Not vaccinated: 215.2
- Partially vaccinated: 134.8
- Fully vaccinated: 29.4

Past two weeks, cases hospitalized per 100,000 population (Aug. 17-30)

- Not vaccinated: 12.2
- Partially vaccinated: 5.1
- Fully vaccinated: 1.3

Since December 2020, the province has administered 7,479,315 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines.

Learn More:

For the Aug. 31, 2021, modelling presentation, visit: http://news.gov.bc.ca/files/8-31_PHO_modelling.pdf

For the provincial health officer's order on masks in public indoor settings, visit: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/25217>

For the Aug. 23, 2021, announcement on proof of vaccination in B.C., visit: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/25211>

For the Aug. 12, 2021, announcement on mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for long-term care workers, visit: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/25143>

For health measures in the Central Okanagan, visit:
[https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/MediaCentre/NewsReleases/Documents/IB_COVID_O
utbreak_6%20August.pdf](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/MediaCentre/NewsReleases/Documents/IB_COVID_Outbreak_6%20August.pdf)

For information on breakthrough cases, see the BCCDC weekly data summary:
<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data#summary>

Detailed data is posted daily on the BCCDC dashboard: [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-
info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data) or: www.bccdc.ca

To register to be immunized or to learn about getting your second dose, visit:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register> or
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/dose-2>

To learn about BC's Restart plan, visit: [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-
19/info/restart](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restart)

For the provincial health officer's orders and guidance, visit:
[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-
provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus)

For guidance on restrictions, visit: [https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-
preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions)

The latest updates, including case counts, prevention, risks and to find a testing centre near you: <http://www.bccdc.ca/> or follow @CDCofBC on Twitter.

For COVID-19 exposure events, updates and information, visit:

- BCCDC: [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-
exposures](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-exposures)
- Fraser Health: fraserhealth.ca/covid19exposure
- Interior Health: <https://news.interiorhealth.ca/news/public-exposures/>
- Island Health: [https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19/data-
outbreaks-facilities](https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19/data-outbreaks-facilities)
- Northern Health: [https://www.northernhealth.ca/health-topics/outbreaks-and-
exposures](https://www.northernhealth.ca/health-topics/outbreaks-and-exposures)
- Vancouver Coastal Health: <http://www.vch.ca/covid-19/public-exposures>

Contact:

Ministry of Health
Communications
250 952-1887 (media line)

For approval: outstanding media requests

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants <hlthmaea@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 7, 2021 3:48:14 PM PDT
Attachments: Interview Request - RIH nurse shortages.docx, Interview Requests_09_07.docx, Outstanding Media Requests Sept 7.docx, Media Plan - MD PHO - BC Vaccine Card Media Outreach.docx

Hello Minister,

Please see the attached media responses for your approval. There are also a number of interview requests. The Shelley Joyce one is outstanding from a couple weeks ago, and she has followed up several times.

I also have attached a BC Vaccine Card follow-up media plan for your review.

Thanks!

Aileen

Media requests summary:

- **NEW: COVID (VCH) MEDIA REQUEST – News1130, CBC Vancouver, Daily Hive, Global, Glacier Media – Frat party cases and contact tracing - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID (VIHA) MEDIA REQUEST – Mary Griffin, CHEK News – Cases in children 12 and under - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID (PHSA) MEDIA REQUEST – Penny Daflos, CTV – Ivermectin data/deaths - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID MEDIA REQUEST – Jody Muzylowski, CBC Vancouver – UBC parties - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID MEDIA REQUEST – Rob Shaw, CHEK – what to do if QR code doesn't work - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID MEDIA REQUEST – Andrea Woo, Globe and Mail– testing capacity- Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID (VCH) MEDIA REQUEST – Jane Seyd, North Shore News – surgery delays Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW – VIHA: Susie Quinn, Alberni Valley News – Air Ambulances in Port Alberni - Deadline ASAP**
- **PHSA: Kathryn Blaze Baum, Globe and Mail – heat dome event response - Deadline Tuesday, September 7, 2021 AM**
- **VCH: Isabelle Southcott, www.qathetliving.ca – sharing patient info between HAs - Deadline ASAP**
- **IH: Andrea Woo, Globe and Mail – surgery postponements - Deadline ASAP**
- **HLTH: Dominique Levesque, CBC Radio Canada – nurse recruitment – Deadline Friday, August 27, 2021 7:00 PM**
- **HLTH: Jolene Rudisuela, Capital Daily News – elective surgeries VIHA – Deadline ASAP**

INTERVIEW REQUESTS:

- **NEW: COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST – Missy Johnson, CBC Afternoon Circuit – BC Vaccine card announcement - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID INTERVIEW REQUESTS – Mike Smyth Show, CKNW – BC Vaccine card announcement - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST – Fabienne Hareau, CBC Radio Canada (in French) – BC Vaccine card announcement - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST – Bhinder Sajan, CTV (for tomorrow) – surgeries and hospital occupancy due to Covid - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID HA (VCH) INTERVIEW REQUEST –Margaret Gallagher, CBC On the Coast – UBC Vaccine clinic - Deadline ASAP**
- **HLTH: Shelley Joyce, CBC Kamloops - interview re: nurse shortage at RIH**

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

HLTH Media Request: Interview with Minister Dix - nurse shortage at Royal Inland Hospital

Reporter

Shelley Joyce, Host
CBC – Kamloops
shelley.joyce@cbc.ca
250-374-6802

Deadline ASAP

Request

Topic: Royal Inland Hospital and the nurse shortage, specifically in the emergency department.
Date: September 7, 2021
Details: pre-tape between 4am-12pm, for CBC morning show

Notes:

I have talked to Interior health and other partners but I think it's important and fair to hear from Adrian Dix on this. He and I discussed it briefly this morning . . . more or less a perfect storm at RIH with covid, fires, nurses quitting, a hospital that is over capacity. This request first came in August 16th.

Considerations:

s.13

s.13

Key messages:

s.13

Page 034 of 269

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST – CBC Afternoon Circuit – BC vaccine card announcement

Reporter

Missy Johnson, Producer
CBC - Vancouver
missy.johnson@cbc.ca
604-880-6724

Deadline ASAP

Request

I'm wondering if it's possible to book Dr. Henry and/or Minister Dix for some interviews with our afternoon shows today to discuss the vaccine passports.

We'd like them for Radio West at 4:35, On The Coast at 5:05 and All Points West at 5:20p.m. PST. Please let me know.

Recommendation s.13

COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST – CKNW – BC vaccine card announcement

Reporter

Mike Smyth, Host
CKNW AM 980
nightlinebc@hotmail.com
250-896-3365

Deadline ASAP

Request

It's Mike Smyth here from CKNW AM-980 Talk radio.

Could Minister Dix be a guest on my show tomorrow (Wednesday) re the B.C. vaccine card?

I have 9 am open right now, he would be the first guest on the show, I would promote his appearance, I think there would be huge listener interest.

It would be great if he could take some listener phone calls with me. Could you let me know please?

Recommendation s.13

COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST – CBC Radio Canada (in French) – BC vaccine card announcement

Reporter

Fabienne Hareau, Producer
CBC Radio Canada
fabienne.hareau@radio-canada.ca
604-662-6230

Deadline ASAP

Request

We were wondering by any chance if Minister Dix would be available tomorrow morning (Sept 8th) ideally at 7:15 am for a short 5 to 7 minutes interview in French during Phare Ouest on Radio-Canada C.-B.

We would like him to comment on the details of the vaccine card that are to be announced today.

Any other time between 7 am and 8 h50 tomorrow would also be great.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST – CTV - surgeries and hospital occupancy due to Covid

Reporter

Bhinder Sajan, Reporter
CTV News (BC)
bhinder.sajan@bellmedia.ca
250-383-2480 c: 250-418-5207

Deadline ASAP

Request

Hoping to speak with the minister tomorrow – about surgeries and hospital occupancy due to Covid.

Recommendation s.13

HA VCH INTERVIEW REQUES - UBC Vaccine Clinic

Reporter

Margaret Gallagher, Host
CBC - On The Coast
margaret.gallagher@cbc.ca
604-662-6976 c: 778-233-6976

Deadline ASAP

Request

I am a reporter with CBC Radio's On the Coast with Gloria Macarenko.

I'd love to come out to the vaccination clinic at UBC tomorrow afternoon to do a short live interview with someone from Coastal Health involved with the clinic.

We're hoping to do the hit at 3:07 to open the show, and it will take about 10 minutes of their time. Would this be possible? (The interview would be with me, onsite.)

Please let me know. This interview will focus on the post-secondary campaign, but we'd also want to briefly mention other efforts being made to get vaccine rates up at other pop-up clinics.

Recommendation: s.13

COVID (VCH): LGH surgeries postponed due to COVID

Reporter

Jane Seyd
North Shore News

Deadline – ASAP

Request

We're hearing the surgeries at LGH are now being postponed again because of an influx of covid cases. Can you give me some info? How many/what per cent of surgeries are being postponed? Are those elective/urgent surgeries?

What can you tell me about hospital admissions/covid patients taking up space in ICU, especially at LGH? And do you have any breakdown of the vaxxed/unvaxxed status of patients either in VCH generally or LGH in particular (yes I know the provincial stats are available. I have them.)

Re: the anti-vaxxer protests: were there any at North Shore facilities/LGH or have there been any that you're aware of (I'm not)? Have you heard from health care workers about how they are feeling about this?

If there are any staff at LGH who would be willing to talk about this I'd be happy to talk to them.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID (VCH): Frat party cases and contact tracing

Reporters (x5)

News1130
CBC Vancouver
Daily Hive
Glacier Media
Global TV

Deadline – ASAP

Request

I'm trying to track down if any public notification is going to be issued re: possible COVID cases linked to frat parties at UBC over the weekend? There's confusion about whether any contact tracing has already been done.

Added from CBC: 1. Have there been COVID cases linked to the frat party that happened at Wesbrook Mall last week? 2. Will VCH be issuing an exposure notice for the parties if that is the case? 3. What is the threshold at which VCH issues an exposure notice?

Background

s.13

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID (VIHA): cases in children 12 and under

Reporters

Mary Griffin

CHEK News

Deadline – ASAP

Request

Working on a back to school story for tonight's newscast. Can you tell me how many children under 12 have contracted COVID and how many have been hospitalizaed within Island Health since the start of the pandemic?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

Background

s.13

COVID (PHSA): Ivermectin data/deaths

Reporters

Penny Daflos

CTV

Deadline – ASAP

Request

Reporter is following up on an earlier request. She is asking if there is a monthly breakdown of the latest ivermectin data and asking if DPIC (Poison Control) is aware of any deaths.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

Background

s.13

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – Frat party cases and contact tracing

Reporter

Jodi Muzylowski, Reporter

CBC - Vancouver

jodi.muzylowski@cbc.ca

604-662-6905 c: 604-662-6801

Deadline ASAP

Request

The CBC has been in conversation with a UBC student who posted something about a couple of parties at UBC last Tuesday and Wednesday.

The poster claims she knows of at least 3 people that have started to cough following the gatherings of about 200 people, unmasked and not covid safe.

For us it would be a story if the ministry has identified these gatherings as the spark for an outbreak.

Hoping you can tell us if the ministry is aware of a declared outbreak arising from these parties.

We have reached out to VCH but haven't heard back yet.

Recommendation -s.13

s.13

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – What to do if QR code doesn't work

Reporter

Rob Shaw, Reporter
CHEK TV - Victoria
rshaw@cheknews.ca
250-893-0841

Deadline ASAP

Request

Follow-up to my question in technical briefing - so if your QR code doesn't work for some reason, the business does not actually have to scan it to approve it? that's what Dr Henry said. just the fact you have a piece of paper with the government logo and a QR code and the words 'vaccinated' on it, plus a copy of your ID, is good enough, whether or not the QR code scans?

Recommendation -s.13

s.13

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – testing capacity**Reporter**

Andrea Woo, Reporter

Globe and Mail - BC Bureau

andreawoo@globeandmail.com

604-631-6602 c: 604-379-8133

Deadline ASAP

Request

Andrea Woo from the Globe here. A question on behalf of a colleague, who is writing about COVID-19 testing in Ontario: Is B.C. ramping up testing capacity as we go into the fall? (The thinking being that with back to school, influenza season, etc. more people may want to go get tested for COVID-19. Are we anticipating/prepared for that?)

Recommendation

s.13

Background

s.13

s.13

VIHA Media Request: Air Ambulances in Port Alberni

Reporter

Susan Quinn

Alberni Valley News – Editor

editor@albernivalleynews.com

778-421-8061

Deadline ASAP

Request: Alberni Valley News (Susie Quinn), deadline ASAP

While construction is happening at the West Coast General Hospital's emergency department, I see the helipad is being used for construction and storage. Can you confirm that air ambulances are being diverted to Port Alberni's regional airport and patients are being transported to the helicopter via ground ambulance?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

PHSA Media Request: Heat-Dome Event Response

Reporter

Kathryn Blaze Baum, Reporter

Globe and Mail

KBlazeBaum@globeandmail.com

416-585-5775 c: 416-575-2101

Deadline Tuesday, September 7, 2021 10:00 AM

Request

Reporter is working on extensive piece and has asked the following questions regarding the heat-dome event.

- The B.C. union representing paramedics says BCEHS didn't activate its "emergency coordination centre until the day the heat began to subside." Can you please respond to that?
- What, exactly, does activating an emergency coordination centre entail?
- When was the centre set up? If it wasn't until later in the June heat wave, why is that?

Considerations:

s.13

Recommendation s.13

s.13

Page 050 of 269 to/à Page 051 of 269

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

VCH Media Request: sharing patient info between HAS

Reporter

Isabelle Southcott, Reporter

www.qathetliving.ca

isabelle@prliving.ca

Deadline ASAP

Request

I'm working on a story for qathet Living Magazine which I own (formerly known as Powell River Living) which is in your health district and am hoping you can help me or tell me who can. I was recently told that VCHA and VIHA don't share information such as test results and X-rays and wanted to know why. I was told it costs thousands and thousands of dollars to redo tests that were previously done by the other health authority but that there's no option as VCH won't share their results.

As you know residents of qathet and Powell River travel to the lower mainland and to Vancouver Island for health appointments.

Why doesn't VCH share info?

I'd appreciate hearing back from you before the end of the week on this.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

IH Media Request: surgery postponements

Reporter

Andrea Woo, Reporter
Globe and Mail - BC Bureau
andreawoo@globeandmail.com
604-631-6602 c: 604-379-8133

Deadline ASAP

Request

Andrea Woo from the Globe and Mail here. I'm writing this week about COVID hospitalizations, and hospitals, across the country as we move into the fall. Specifically: As cases and hospitalizations increase in certain areas, what contingency plans are in place and have any of them been enacted yet? As an example, Alberta Health Services is transferring nine patients out of the Grande Prairie QEII Hospital to neighbouring healthcare centres and postponing a number of elective surgeries to ensure there's enough room in hospital.

Can you please provide me with information about the situation in the interior, including but not limited to:

- the number of elective surgeries that have been postponed,
- how many patients have been transferred (from where?)
- acute care/ICU capacity

Considerations

s.13

Recommendation s.13

s.13

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Health Media Request: Nurse recruitment

Reporter

Dominique Levesque, Producer

CBC Radio Canada

dominique.levesque@radio-canada.ca

604-340-3914

Deadline Friday, August 27, 2021 7:00 PM

Request

How many nursing student spots are available now in postsecondary institutions in BC?

Has this number increased in the last 5 years? by how much?

Are any strategies in place to create more nursing student places and or recruiting nursing student?

How many nursing graduates does BC produce every year? (numbers for the past 5 years)

How many graduates stay to work in BC after graduating?

Are any strategies in place to keep nursing graduates in small regional communities?

Considerations

s.13

Recommendation s.13

s.13

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

HLTH Follow-up Media Request: Elective surgeries VIHA

Reporter

Jolene Rudisuela, Reporter
Capital Daily News
jolene@capitaldaily.ca
403-998-0292

Deadline ASAP

Request

I have a couple follow-up questions:

How many surgeons, anesthesiologists and operating room RNs are there total in Island Health? And how many anesthesiologists and operating room registered nurses in Island Health?

What is the most common elective surgery procedure is in BC?

Can I have the data from the past 5 years on hip replacement surgeries across all hospitals in BC?

You mentioned that Island Health has added 17 new initiatives to increase surgical capacity: can you elaborate on what those are?

Can you explain how surgeries are scheduled? How are different surgeries prioritized and what factors might allow a patient to jump ahead in the cue?

How do wait times on Vancouver Island compare to the rest of the province generally? From what I've been seeing, they seem to be a bit shorter on average. Is this accurate?

Why do wait times vary so much by health authority?

Recommendation -s.13

s.13

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Background

This is a follow-up to a media request from August 17, 2021.

REQUEST:

I'm a journalist with Capital Daily and I'm currently working on a story about wait times for elective surgeries on Vancouver Island. I am interested in speaking with someone with the Ministry to learn more about what is contributing to the long wait times for elective surgeries, as well as the work the government is doing to reduce wait times.

Please let me know if there is someone available to do an interview with me, ideally by the end of the week. I can be contacted at jolene@capitaldaily.ca or 403-998-0292

RESPONSE:

Provided Statement

There's no question that our health system has faced increased pressures due to COVID-19. Surgery postponements are stressful for people and we want to assure these people that rescheduling all surgeries as quickly as possible is a priority.

Over the past year, we have done extraordinary work across the province, and in Island Health specifically, to increase surgical capacity. The most recent Surgical Renewal Commitment Progress Report shows that we continue to change the way we are delivering surgery in B.C. by offering surgeries during extended hours and on weekends, changing our wait list management practices, and focusing on patients most in need.

Through these efforts, 98% of the patients in VIHA whose surgeries were postponed in the first wave of COVID-19 — who still wished to have surgery — have had their surgery. Between March 31, 2020 and March 31, 2021, VIHA decreased the total waitlist size by 20% -- from 19,657 to 15,816 — and the operating rooms ran 8,892 more hours — a 10% increase — compared to the same timeframe in the previous year. During this timeframe between 2020 and 2021, VIHA completed 56,496 scheduled and unscheduled surgeries. To support completing these surgeries as soon as possible, Island Health has added 17 initiatives to increase their surgical capacity.

Across all health authorities, we've hired four surgeons (for a total of 55), eight anesthesiologists (for a total of 64) and 48 operating room registers nurses (for a total of 519) since April 1, 2020. Despite challenges posed by COVID-19, our surgical system is stronger than ever and we will continue to build on the progress we have made so far.

Media Plan – BC Vaccine Card – Sept. 7 & 8

September 7th – Media Following the announcement

Minister Dix:

- CBC Circuit—Drive Home Shows

September 8th – Next day media outreach

Minister Dix:

- Global Morning Show
- CFX (Victoria) – Mornings with Al Ferraby
- AM 1150 (Kelowna) – The Early Edition with Phil Johnson and Gary Barnes
- RedFM – Hardjinder Thind
- VISTA (Prince George) – Brendan Pawliw
- CFJC (Kamloops)
- CBC BC Today with Michelle Eliot (Call-in Show)
- Fairchild AM – Travena Lee
- OMNI News – Yiwen Chen
- Castanet – Madison Erhardt
- InfoNews – Rob Munro

September 9th-10th – Later in the week outreach

Dr. Henry:

- CBC Circuit – Morning Shows
- CKNW (Vancouver) – Mornings with Simi Sara
- One-on-one Gary Mason
- One-on-one Justin McElroy (pre-approved by MO/PHO)

Additional outlets on 8th or 9th for MD:

- Spice Radio
- Sher e Punjab 600AM.
- Zee TV
- Prime Asia TV.

For approval: early rollup of media requests

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants <hlthmaea@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 8, 2021 1:34:43 PM PDT
Attachments: Outstanding media requests early Sept 8.docx, Interview requests early Sept 8.docx

Hello Minister,

I've attached an early rollup of outstanding media for your review. I'll send another one later today, and will include these if you are not able to review before then.

Also hoping to confirm timing for Rob Shaw when you have time.

Thanks!
Aileen

MEDIA REQUESTS:

- **NEW: Interior Media Request – multiple outlets – emergency room death at RIH – Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID (VIHA) MEDIA REQUEST – Don Descoteau, Black Press Victoria – closure of assessment centres - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID MEDIA REQUEST – Camille Bains, CP - school exposures - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID MEDIA REQUEST – Rob Shaw, Chek – QR Code - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID MEDIA REQUEST –Andrew Woo, Globe and Mail – testing capacity - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID MEDIA REQUEST –Elana Shepard, Vancouver is Awesome – sharing vaccine card online - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID MEDIA REQUEST – Richard Zussman, Global – enforcement - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID MEDIA REQUEST – Rob Shaw, Chek – Modelling Data - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID MEDIA REQUEST – Colin Dacre, Castanet - reporting VE data - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID MEDIA REQUEST – Monika Gul, News 1130- definition of fully vaccinated - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID MEDIA REQUEST – Maria Weisgarber, CTV – vaccine card exemptions and penalties - Deadline ASAP**

INTERVIEW REQUESTS:

- **NEW: COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST – Bhinder Sajan, CTV – surgeries and hospital occupancy due to Covid - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST – Justin McElroy, CBC – 18 month mark of pandemic - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST – Kala Wood, CFAX – BC Vaccine Card - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST - Fabienne Hareau, CBC Radio Canada – BC Vaccine Card - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST – Michelle Eliot, CBC – BC Vaccine Card - Deadline ASAP**

- **NEW: COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST – Jason Manaois CKNW– BC Vaccine Card - Deadline ASAP**
- **NEW: COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST – Rosemary Barton, CBC – BC COVID update - Deadline ASAP**

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

IH Media request: Kamloops emergency room death

Reporter

CBC Kamloops
Radio NL
CFJC TV
Castanet
Kamloops This Week

Deadline ASAP

Topic

Interior Health has multiple Kamloops media requests related to reports of a death in the emergency department patient last night. Media have heard the patient waited hours before collapsing. There was a death, which one media said was confirmed by BC Coroner.

The first story has run here:

https://www.radionl.com/2021/09/08/person-dies-while-waiting-for-care-in-royal-inland-hospital-emergency-room/?sc_ref=twitter

Proposed response from IH:

s.13

COVID (VIHA): closure of assessment centres

Reporter

Don Descoteau
Black Press Victoria

Deadline – ASAP

Request

We're getting calls and letters about the closure of COVID-19 assessment centres in Greater Victoria and beyond.

We're just trying to get the bottom line on this, as one caller said her family physician is rather anxious about the idea of having potential COVID-positive patients in her waiting room with others, and having to treat them.

Where are we at currently and near future in terms of the status of COVID assessment centres?

Recommendation -s.13

s.13

COVID MEDIA REQUEST - school exposure notices

Reporter

Camille Bains, Reporter
Canadian Press (BC Bureau)
camille.bains@thecanadianpress.com
604-687-1662 c: 778-772-1741

Deadline ASAP

Request

BCTF president spoke against lack of exposure notices at news conference this morning. Is Minister Dix available for an interview? Filing second hit soon and would appreciate speaking with him asap. Thanks. He could call me at 778-772-1741.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID Media Request – QR Code

Reporter

Rob Shaw, Reporter
CHEK TV - Victoria
rshaw@cheknews.ca
250-893-0841

Deadline ASAP

Request

Does this work in other provinces? Can I take my QR code and scan it in Ontario/Quebec and vice-versa?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

Background:

Approved by Pam Smith

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – Testing Capacity

Reporter

Andrea Woo, Reporter
Globe and Mail - BC Bureau
andreawoo@globeandmail.com
604-631-6602 c: 604-379-8133

Deadline ASAP

Request

Are you anticipating more families coming in for tests and, if so, any plans to ramp up testing capacity?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

Background

Approved by Gayle Downey, CHREM
This is a follow-up to a media request from September 7, 2021.

REQUEST:

Andrea Woo from the Globe here. A question on behalf of a colleague, who is writing about COVID-19 testing in Ontario: Is B.C. ramping up testing capacity as we go into the fall? (The thinking being that with back to school, influenza season, etc. more people may want to go get tested for COVID-19. Are we anticipating/prepared for that?)

RESPONSE:

Provided Background

- *B.C. has maintained its testing capacity throughout the duration of the pandemic. Lab-based PCR testing is the gold standard for diagnosing COVID-19, and BC continues to maintain testing capacity in excess of 20,000 lab-based PCR tests per day.*
- *Currently, anyone in BC who has symptoms of COVID-19, who is part of an outbreak or cluster, or who has otherwise been identified by a Medical Health Officer can receive a PCR test through the public system.*
- *Our approach to testing will continue to evolve based on epidemiology, testing capacity and methodology and our growing understanding of the virus.*
- *Effective September 13, 2021 in accordance with the current Public Health Orders, unvaccinated staff members working in Long Terms Care Facilities, Private Hospitals, Stand Alone Extended Care Hospitals designated under the Hospital Act, Assisted Living Residences, and Provincial Mental Health Facilities are required to receive a rapid test at a facility at every shift.*
- *Beginning in the Fall, BC universities will begin offering rapid testing in accordance with the provincial strategy.*
- *More information about BC's Rapid COVID-19 Point of Care Screening Program can be found*

here: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing/rapid-covid-19-point-of-care-screening-program>

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – Sharing vaccine card online

Reporter

Elana Shepert, Reporter

Vancouver Is Awesome

elana@vancouverisawesome.com

604-439-2686

Deadline ASAP

Request

Can you please provide some more information from the ministry about why it is vital that people don't share their QR codes online? I have seen some people not taking it seriously, but they may not understand why and I was wondering if you could provide an official statement or outline the key reasons.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – BC Vaccination Card Enforcement

Reporter

Richard Zussman, Reporter
Global TV | BC
richard.zussman@globalnews.ca
250-216-7328

Deadline ASAP

Request

Richard has reached out to say he is doing a story on enforcement of the vaccine card. He said he can use what was said yesterday, but wanted to see if you or Dr. Henry had anything to add.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

Background:

s.13

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – Modelling data

Reporter

Rob Shaw, Reporter
CHEK TV - Victoria
rshaw@cheknews.ca
250-893-0841

Deadline ASAP

Request

I had a Q about the modelling slides leftover. Just prepping for radio today and thinking about how to describe things and it occurred to me - the two scenarios slides 24 and 25, that show a small but steady increase in cases and hospitalizations based on our projected vaccination rates.

They also have the green line that is lower for "higher vaccination" rates.

But I reviewed my notes on the tech briefing and I can't figure out what the "higher" vaccination rate means. Is there a % of vaccination figure that coincides with that line? Like, at the end of the graphic (Sept. 22), on the green line, what is the assume full two dose vaccination rate for people 12+? 90%? 92%?

Would be helpful to know that figure for the four graphs on those two slides.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

Background:

Data provided by BCCDC

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – reporting VE data

Reporter

Colin Dacre, News Director
Castanet (Penticton)
colin@castanet.net
778-646-2001 c: 250-488-3438

Deadline ASAP

Request

I'm getting bombarded with questions from readers as to why the data on vaccination status for cases/hospitalizations was not released today?

Will that data be released with tomorrow's numbers?

Recommendation -s.13

s.13

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – definition of fully vaccinated

Reporter

Monika Gul, Reporter

News 1130

monika.gul@rci.rogers.com

604-877-4400 c: 604-318-5038

Deadline ASAP

Request

Reaching out to get clarification on when a person is considered fully vaccinated when it comes to the vaccine card. Before yesterday, the BC government website said a person would be considered fully vaccinated 7 days after their second dose. The webpage now no longer specifies when one is considered fully vaccinated. Wondering if 7 days is still the case and if so, why?

Recommendation: s.13

s.13

Background:

Approved by Haley Miller in PHO

COVID Media Request – exemptions and enforcement

Reporter

Maria Weisgarber, Reporter
CTV News (BC)
maria.weisgarber@bellmedia.ca
604-609-5800 c: 604-787-9676

Deadline ASAP

Request

Just hoping to get a response to a couple of queries about the vaccine card:

Will the province consider allowing some exemptions, in particular for those with disabilities?

What kind of enforcement or penalties will be in place for people who refuse to show a vaccine card at eligible businesses/locations?

I am working on a story for 5 and 6 tonight, my deadline is anytime before 2 PM today.

Recommendation

s.13

COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST – CTV - surgeries and hospital occupancy due to Covid

Reporter

Bhinder Sajan, Reporter

CTV News (BC)

bhinder.sajan@bellmedia.ca

250-383-2480 c: 250-418-5207

Deadline ASAP

Request

Hoping to speak with the minister today – about surgeries and hospital occupancy due to Covid.

Recommendation s.13

COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST – 18-month mark of pandemic

Reporter

Justin McElroy, Reporter

CBC - Victoria

justin.mcelroy@cbc.ca

250-384-2685 c: 604-346-6468

Deadline ASAP

Request

I'm requesting a pretaped interview with Dr. Henry at some point later this week or early next week.

It's for a story I'm doing for next Friday for radio and online to note the 18-month mark of the pandemic, the introduction of the vaccine card, and the things that will bear watching in the months ahead in B.C. in controlling transmission.

COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST - BC Vaccine Card changing B.C.'s COVID landscape

Reporter

Kala Wood, Producer

CFOX 1070

kala.wood@bellmedia.ca

250-920-4616

Deadline ASAP

Request

I am hoping to set up a general check in with Minister Dix and host Al Ferraby for this week on how the vaccine card will change the COVID game. I am hoping for 7:50AM PST either Thursday or Friday? Please let me know if this is possible, or if there is a different time slot that would work better.

Recommendation s.13

COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST (French) - BC Vaccine Card

Reporter

Fabienne Hareau, Producer
CBC Radio Canada
fabienne.hareau@radio-canada.ca
604-662-6230

Deadline ASAP

Request

We were wondering by any chance if Minister Dix would be available tomorrow morning (Sept 9th) ideally at 7:15 am for a short 5 to 7 minutes interview in French during Phare Ouest on Radio-Canada to talk about the BC Vaccine Card.

Any other time between 7 am and 8 h50 tomorrow would also be great.

Recommendation s.13

COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST - BC Vaccine Card

Reporter

Michelle Eliot, Producer

CBC - Vancouver

michelle.eliot@cbc.ca

604-662-6128 c: 604-868-7934

Deadline ASAP

Request

It's a busy time with the vaccine cards and back to school. I'm wondering if Minister Dix would be able to join us for the open line at noon-12:30 on September 13th?

This would be around how the vaccine cards work, back to school, and general fourth wave questions.

Recommendation s.13

COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST – Current COVID situation

Reporter

Jason Manaois, Producer

CKNW AM 980

jason.manaois@corusent.com

604-331-2738 c: 604-720-3974

Deadline ASAP

Request

Looking to have Minister or Dr. Henry on Simi Sara show Thursday or Friday morning.

Recommendation s.13

COVID INTERVIEW REQUEST – Current COVID situation in BC

Reporter

Justin Irwin, Producer

CBC News Network

Justin.Irwin@cbc.ca

416-205-6389

Deadline ASAP

Request

I'm writing to you on behalf of Rosemary Barton on CBC. We wish to formally request a live TV interview with Dr. Bonnie Henry on Sunday, September 12th at 7 am PT.

The interview will be with host Rosemary Barton and will be regarding the pandemic situation in British Columbia. It is a 10-minute television interview -- so the interview will be over Skype or FaceTime, whichever the doctor prefers to use.

Please let us know if Dr. Henry is interested in speaking with us. I can be reached via email or phone at 647-919-8229.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Recommendation s.13

For approval: outstanding media requests

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants <hlthmaea@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 20, 2021 3:13:08 PM PDT
Attachments: DBH - Interview Requests - Sept 20.docx, Interview Requests - Sept 20.docx, Outstanding Media Requests - Sept 20.docx

Good afternoon Minister,
Please see the attached media responses for your approval, along with a couple of interview requests.

Let me know if you would like more information or edits for any of these.

Thanks and have a good rest of your day.

Aileen

Media requests summary:

- NEW – PHSA: Zachary Roman, Salmon Arm Observer – Sicamous Ambulance Station - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – VCH: Jane Seyd, North Shore News – Lion's Gate Hospital – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – VCH: Akshay Kulkarni, CBC Vancouver – VCH surgeries - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – VIHA: Roszan Holmen, CFX 1070 – paediatric diversion - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – VIHA: Ian Holliday, CTV – VIHA Hospital Capacity - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – VIHA: CHEK News; CTV VI; Capital Daily – ICU/hospital capacity/COVID-19 patients - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – NH: Thom Barker, Interior News – Smithers Hospital - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – FH: Grace Kennedy, Fraser Valley Current – maternity diversion - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – HLTH: Shannon Waters, BC Today – Northern Health Projects - **Deadline** Monday, September 20, 2021 4:00 PM
- REVISED – HLTH: Marcella Bernardo, News 1130 – cancelled surgeries/nurse recruitment - **Deadline** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 5:00 PM
- NEW – HLTH: Rod Link, Terrace Standard – Northern Health investments - **Deadline** Thursday, September 16, 2021 12:00 PM
- NEW HLTH: TBD – statement re: Northern Health staffing challenges - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW PHSA: Aaron McArthur, Global – interview with Dr. Manish Sadarangani, BC Children's Hospital on Pfizer study on vaccine for children under 11 - **Deadline** – ASAP
- NEW – VCH: Simon Little, Global – Corduroy Restaurant says it won't follow BC Vaccine Card requirement **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Stefan Labbe, Glacier Media – Follow up on contact tracing **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Liza Yuzda, News 1130 – Number of health care workers vaccinated **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW -- COVID: Mike Howell, Glacier Media – Data on the demographic currently getting vaccinated **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Corey Bullock, Cranbrook Daily Townsman – BC Vaccine Card **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Celeste Steindl, KSQM News Victoria – Circuit breaker **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Mandy Wen, Fairchild AM -- Name appearing on BC Vaccine Card **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Joel Ballard, CBC – BC Vaccine Card rationale for businesses chosen **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Yvette Brend, CBC – unvaccinated COVID case **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID (PHSA): Chen Wang, Globe & Mail – school exposure notifications **Deadline** ASAP

Interviews:

- COVID: Kala Wood, CFX 1070 – interview with Al Ferraby re: general health/vaccine card updates and senior home outbreaks (flexible date, 6:50, 7:20, 7:50, 8:20, or 8:50)
- NEW – PHSA: Carly Weeks, Globe & Mail – interview with Dr. Laura Sauve on delta variant and children - **Deadline** – early this week

DBH:

- NEW – COVID: Craig Takeuchi, Georgia Straight – interview re: pandemic, cold and flu season (Sept 20-24)

Aileen Machell (she/her)

COVID Media Request: DBH INTERVIEW REQ - Pandemic update, where we are now, heading to cold and flu season

Reporter

Craig Takeuchi, Reporter
Georgia Straight
c_takeuchi@straight.com
604-730-7092

Deadline ASAP

Request

I was wondering if Dr. Bonnie Henry would be interested in an interview to take stock of where we are in the pandemic—a look back at how far we've come and what could potentially lie ahead—as we head into another respiratory cold and flu season.

Although I have asked some questions at daily briefings, there are numerous other questions I've been wanting to ask her throughout the pandemic that I have never gotten around to (because there were so many other pressing issues).

Some of them are quite general, including how this pandemic compares to some of her previous experiences and what her assessment is of how people have reacted to various health measures.

If she is interested in an interview, I would be available next week.

The best times for me would be:
Monday afternoon (September 20)
Wednesday anytime, except from 1 to 2 p.m. (September 22)
Thursday or Friday anytime (September 23 and 24)

I don't have a specific deadline yet so this is flexible, but it would be for an article we are hoping to put both in print and online.

COVID Media Request: Interview Request - Minister Dix - Al Ferraby Show

Reporter

Kala Wood, Producer

CFOX 1070

kala.wood@bellmedia.ca

250-920-4616

Deadline Friday, September 17, 2021 5:00 PM

Request

It is looking like we are overdue for an interview with Minister Dix and host Al Ferraby, would you be able to help me set something up? Al's daily slots are 6:50, 7:20, 7:50, 8:20, and 8:50. We are happy to move things around for the Minister based on what time works for him. Please let me know.

Recommendation s.13

COVID: Pfizer study on vaccine in children under 11

Reporter

Aaron McArthur

Global

Deadline – ASAP

Request

Global would like a 5 min background chat on the release of data from Pfizer on vaccines for children under 11.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID: Delta variant and children

Reporter

Carly Weeks

Globe & Mail

Deadline – early this week

Request

Reporter would like to interview Dr. Laura Sauve, BC Children's Hospital Pediatric Infectious Disease Physician about the impacts of the Delta variant is having on children. She read the recent BCCH web story.

<http://www.bcchildrens.ca/about/news-stories/stories/children-and-the-delta-variant>

Recommendation s.13

s.13

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

PHSA Media Request: Sicamous Ambulance Station

Reporter

Zachary Roman
Salmon Arm Observer

Deadline ASAP

Request

Looking for details on changes to Alpha shifts at the Sicamous Ambulance Station.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

VCH Media Request: Lion's Gate Hospital

Reporter

Jane Seyd, Reporter
North Shore News
jseyd@nsnews.com
604-998-3539

Deadline ASAP

Request

Dr. McLeod indicated he is willing to speak to me about the impacts of COVID patients at LGH and what we are seeing in this fourth wave locally. Can you either let him know that he can do that or tell me why not? This request was sent through four days ago.

I notice other doctors dealing with COVID patients in other areas of the Lower Mainland (including ones in VCH) have spoken to media.

So I'm reading today about leaked LGH info on social media, claiming:

Lion's Gate Emergency unit in Amber - OCP. Overflow. 25 ED admissions. 12 covid patients. 5 in ICU. Urgent surgeries not getting done in time and that can be deadly! Doctors pondering ethical dilemma on urgent surgeries. 10 surgeries cancelled.

LGH is 108% capacity and medics wondering about over capacity protocols. OCP. Difficulties with ED admissions and surgical beds. In effect looking around at other hospitals to help out in crunch.

startling situations in two of our hospitals with patients on ECMO - blood circulation/oxygenation outside of body via machine. 1/

This is as of yesterday.

Obviously I'd like to know what the situation is in terms of how many COVID patients are at LGH and in ICU there. Can you give any info on vaxxed vs non-vaxxed or any kind of age breakdown (ie Dix likes to talk about how all of the under 50s are unvaxxed for instance) How is it impacting surgeries or hospital admissions?

Can you give me an update? Many thanks.

s.13

Recommendation s.13

s.13

s.13

VCH Media Request: VCH surgeries**Reporter**

Akshay Kulkarni
CBC Vancouver

Deadline ASAP

Request

This is Akshay with CBC News. We got a tip that more than 10 major surgeries, scheduled at Vancouver General Hospital next week, were being delayed to accommodate out-of-city patients.

I reached out to see if you could confirm this delay, how many surgeries in total were delayed if so, and how long they were delayed. I spoke with someone who just said their surgery slated for Thursday has been delayed.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

VIHA Media Request: paediatric diversion

Reporter

Roszan Holmen, Producer

CFOX 1070

roszan.holmen@bellmedia.ca

250-920-4616

Deadline ASAP

Request

Is someone from Island Health available for a recorded interview with Ryan Price to explain why/how children's surgeries are being diverted to the mainland?

I'm hoping for a 4-6 minute interview sometime in the late morning or early afternoon.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

VIHA Media Request: VIHA Hospital Capacity

Reporter

Ian Holliday, Producer

CTV News (BC)

ian.holliday@bellmedia.ca

604-609-5823

Deadline ASAP

Request

Trying to get some information on the allegation we've been seeing from some people in Victoria that Royal Jubilee Hospital's ICU is full due to COVID patients and that some patients have had to be transferred to Vic General as a result.

Any information you can provide about ICU capacity on the South Island more generally (how close are we to hospitals being full, etc.) would also be appreciated.

Recommendations.13

s.13

VIHA Media Request: ICU/Hospital capacity/COVID patients

Reporter

CHEK News – Kori Sidaway

CTV VI – Brendan Strain

Capital Daily – Zoe Ducklow

Deadline – ASAP (CHEK and CTV running with this story Monday evening)

Request

CTV - I'm working on a story today regarding the jubilee hospital being overcrowded with Covid patients. We are seeing social media posts from a health care worker in Alberta who is posting reports on behalf of doctors and nurses who are working on the frontlines of island health's Covid response.

CHEK - Is Royal Jubilee ICU currently over capacity? Is Royal Jubilee's COVID unit full with patients spilling over to the ER? Hearing also that surgeries are being repeatedly bumped. Are surgeries being bumped because of the high number of COVID patients? How many hospital's ICU's are currently over capacity? Also hearing Nanaimo ICU is full. All patients being referred to Comox Valley instead?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

NH Media Request: Smithers Hospital**Reporter**

Thom Barker, Reporter

Interior News

editor@interior-news.com

306-641-6215

Deadline ASAP

Request

Thom has heard a rumour that the Smithers hospital has been designated a COVID hospital and closed to some services, diverted to others (to Terrace and Kitimat).

s.13

Recommendation s.13

s.13

FH Media Request: maternity diversion**Reporter**

Grace Kennedy, Reporter
Fraser Valley Current
grace@fvcurrent.com
604-866-5298

Deadline ASAP**Request**

Reporter would like to know if there was as temporary diversion from Chilliwack to Abbotsford Hospital from August 2-5, 2019 and what changes occurred at the time and afterwards to ensure adequate coverage in the maternity unit at Chilliwack. The reporter noted she had received a Fraser Health FOI with little information and was hoping for more context.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

HLTH Media Request: Northern Health Projects

Reporter

Shannon Waters, Reporter

BC Today

s.waters@britishcolumbiatoday.ca

236-882-7149

Deadline Monday, September 20, 2021 4:00 PM

Request

I am looking for further details on last week's announcement about funding for staff recruitment and retention in Northern Health.

The minister and the release specified that the government is providing ~\$3 million "to offer financial incentives and support for priority health-care workers" and that this money is in addition to - not out of - Northern Health's budget.

- Are there any further details on what this "comprehensive health-care worker rural retention program" means? Which health care workers is it available to (physicians, nurses, HCAs, is it only acute care or long-term care as well)?

- What is the timeline for rolling out this funding?

Re: the "further projects," is that funding also coming from the province or is it being redirected out of Northern Health's budget?

I would also, at some point, appreciate an update on the ambulance resource funding announced on July 14. How much is being spent, at least.

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s.13

HLTH Media Request: Northern Health investment**Reporter**

Rod Link, Reporter

Terrace Standard

rodlink@terracestandard.com

250-638-7283

Deadline Thursday, September 16, 2021 12:00 PM

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Hoping for some clarification of a paragraph in yesterday's money for Northern Health announcement. Here's that para.

The comprehensive health-care worker rural retention program for targeted communities and occupations is designed to offer financial incentives and support for priority health-care workers and will be funded by government at approximately \$3 million.

Am hoping you can turn this into English.

Are you talking about recruitment bonuses, moving expenses, annual bonuses to stay in a community/the region, etc.?

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Reporters: these reporters called on the weekend – have not followed up.

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CBC (Chad Pawson)
CBC (Kate Partridge)
Canadian Press (Nick Wells)
News 1130 (Avi)

Deadline ASAP

Request

Statement to be shared with media as needed re: Northern Health staffing challenges.

Recommendation

s.13

COVID: Pfizer study on vaccine in children under 11

Reporter

Aaron McArthur

Global

Deadline – ASAP

Request

Global would like a 5 min background chat on the release of data from Pfizer on vaccines for children under 11.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID (VCH): Corduroy restaurant and BC Vaccine Card

Reporter

Simon Little
Global

Deadline – ASAP

Request

We're following up on Corduroy Restaurant in Kitsilano that was temporarily shut down this spring for defying COVID-19 closure orders.

The restaurant has publicly stated that it will not be enforcing the new vaccine passport, and has been busy this week.

Has VCH sent staff by the business to assess?

Can you tell us the current status of the restaurant's licensing/permission to operate?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – Contact Tracing

Reporter

Stefan Labbe, Reporter
Glacier Media
slabbe@glaciermedia.ca
604-345-8450

Deadline ASAP

Request

In a webinar last night, Dr. Reka Gustafson said the province is in a transition stage where the province needs to "stop counting cases like we have in the past 18 months."

Does the province plan to change the way it counts COVID-19 cases? If so, how and when?

At the same seminar, VCH public health nurse Nomi Mate said her team is referring positive cases and contacts to family physicians. Public health, she said, is focusing on "initial contact tracing."

"We are not isolating all of our contacts anymore. There's very few people that are being isolated now, and it's only pretty much if they haven't been vaccinated or just recently vaccinated," she said.

In addition to my request on how contact tracing has changed, can you help me understand how mandatory isolation has changed as well.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – Healthcare workers already vaccinated

Reporter

Liza Yuzda, Reporter

News 1130

Liza.Yuzda@rci.rogers.com

250-361-1957 c: 250-508-6479

Deadline ASAP

Request

Do you know how many of that 150,000 are vaccinated already. Or when you will know how many of that 150,000 are vaccinated?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – Breakthrough data request

Reporter

Mike Howell, Reporter
Glacier FarmMedia Network
mhowell@glaciermedia.ca
778-994-7096 c: 778-994-7096

Deadline ASAP

Request

I have questions about data related to people who are fully vaccinated with COVID-19 in B.C.

Is there data available for the following:

- Age range?
- Gender?
- In which health authority do they reside?
- How many are immunocompromised?
- Occupation?
- Type of vaccine administered?

If so, can that be broken down between those people recovering at home, and those in hospital?

Many people I speak to — on and off the job — have questions about this data, so believe it would be helpful to publicize facts so not to bolster anti-vaxxers argument that fully vaccinated people are getting COVID, so why bother getting vaccinated.

When did the health ministry begin to release data showing the numbers and percentage of fully vaccinated people who have contracted COVID-19.

Also curious when the first case was discovered in B.C. when a fully vaccinated person had contracted COVID.

Deadline: ASAP, but flexible depending on whether this is immediately available or will take a couple of days to gather.

Recommendations.13

s.13

s.13

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – BC Vaccine Card technology

Reporter

Corey Bullock, Reporter
Cranbrook Daily Townsman
corey.bullock@cranbrooktownsman.com
250-426-5201 x 5607

Deadline ASAP

Request

I am seeking a comment on the following questions. We have received similar inquiries from community members, so I thought it best to clarify through the Ministry directly. My deadline is Tuesday, Sept, 21st at 10am.

1. Why create a digital vaccine card? - Why was/is the wallet-sized paper immunization record not sufficient?
2. Did SMART Health Card create the technology for BC's digital vaccine card? If not, which tech company was responsible for creating and rolling out the digital platform? Are you able to expand on their role any further?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – Current COVID protocols

Reporter

Celeste Steindl, Reporter
KSQM News Victoria
crsteindl@shaw.ca

Deadline ASAP

Request

1. With daily case counts, total active cases, hospitalizations, and deaths continuing to rise – and some numbers the highest they have ever been since the pandemic began - why isn't a circuit breaker being implemented by public health?
2. As the deaths are increasing daily now, are Monoclonal Antibodies being provided to those who test positive for Covid-19 and who are showing significant symptoms?
3. With 23 exposures and subsequent "clusters/outbreaks" within families occurring throughout the school system, why isn't accurate and timely information being provided to the other students and their families?
4. If the focus of Public Health is to protect the healthcare system, why aren't public health and safety measures being taken to mitigate the rise in hospitalizations and stresses to the health system?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

s.13

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – BC Vaccine Card name issues

Reporters

Mandy Wen, Reporter
Fairchild AM 1470 FM 96.1
mandywen@am1470.com
604-295-1234 x 1773 c: 604-551-7470

Sabrina Wong, Reporter
Fairchild AM 1470 FM 96.1
604-295-1234 c: 604-369-1470

Deadline ASAP

Request

I want to know about when a middle name or a portion of one's name as printed on government ID is omitted on the vaccine card, as many people with Chinese names (which often have several parts to the name separated by a space) have found, and if that will be a problem.

I was hoping I could get a phone interview tomorrow with Minister Dix regarding this topic, as many of our station's listeners (mainly Chinese-speaking) are concerned about this occurrence. If he is available tomorrow can we arrange for him to speak with a colleague of mine tomorrow?

My colleague in charge of the story is Mandy Wen, her email is mandywen@am1470.com, contact number 778-321-8033.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

Background

This is a follow-up to a media request from September 14, 2021.

REQUEST:

I'm Sabrina, a reporter from Fairchild Radio. I have heard from a number of people that the name that appears on their vaccine card is different from the one shown on their government ID and I want to know if that will be a problem, and if so how can the Ministry of Health alleviate these concerns?

If possible I'd like to speak over the phone today regarding this matter, but if you're unavailable that's okay.

RESPONSE:

Provided Background

Starting next week there will be a process for people who have changed their name since being

vaccinated. People can visit: immunizationrecord.gov.bc.ca and follow the instructions to submit a Certificate of Name Change or Marriage and new photo ID so their new name is reflected on their BC Vaccine Card.

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – BC Vaccine Card rationale for businesses chosen

Reporter

Joel Ballard, Producer
CBC - Vancouver
joel.ballard@cbc.ca
604-662-6815 c: 778-995-4402

Deadline ASAP

Request

We're working on a story about why some types of businesses are included in the vaccine passport and others aren't.

How did the government choose which businesses would be included in the vaccine passport and which businesses wouldn't be?

If a business wishes it were included, is there anything it can do?

Of course, businesses can enact their own rules, but some owners feel that by not being included, they are put into difficult situations that could damage them professionally. Can you provide a response to this?

Why aren't swimming pools included when other activities in Rec Centres are?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

s.13

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – COVID unvaccinated cases

Reporter

Yvette Brend, Reporter
CBC - Vancouver
yvette.brend@cbc.ca
604-662-6961 c: 604-787-0599

Deadline ASAP

Request

I am doing a story about J.C. Rathwell who says he was almost put on life support at Kelowna General Aug. 29 after getting very ill after contracting COVID.

He survived -- but it was close (he says) and it's turned around his thinking about vaccines.

He's unvaccinated and his posts are being shared by a lot of people who are reluctant. I am trying to get this story out in the public interest - to help make people more aware of what it's like to go through COVID with no vaccine.

Can the PHO or HM Dix offer any comment -- give the situation with the surge of unvaccinated patients at Kelowna General - and elsewhere?

I have reached out to IHS also.

Recommendation^{s.13}

s.13

COVID: school exposure notifications

Reporter

Chen Wang
Globe & Mail

Deadline – ASAP

Request

Reporter is not able to find provincial school-related COVID-19 case numbers online, would like to know where to find this information.

Suggested action:s.13

Recommendation s.13

s.13

Background

Response approved by BCCDC medical lead on schools.

UPDATED For approval: outstanding media requests

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants <hlthmaea@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 20, 2021 4:20:01 PM PDT
Attachments: DBH - Interview Requests - Sept 20.docx, Interview Requests - Sept 20.docx, Outstanding Media Requests - Sept 20.docx

Hello Minister,
I've added one more request to the top of the media requests rollup and copied it below.

Thanks,
Aileen

COVID Request: vaccines for kids age 5-11

Reporter

Aaron McArthur, Reporter
Global TV | BC
aaron.mcarthur@globalnews.ca
604-619-6669
Deadline ASAP

Request

I'm working on a story about the release of the Pfizer data on kids under 11. Is there anything from the provincial government on this today? I realize it is in the hands of Health Canada now, but I'm curious about the provincial reaction in light of what Dr. Gustafson said last week about not necessarily vaccinating kids.

Recommendation

s.13

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: September 20, 2021 3:13 PM
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants <hlthmaea@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Subject: For approval: outstanding media requests

Good afternoon Minister,
Please see the attached media responses for your approval, along with a couple of interview requests.

Let me know if you would like more information or edits for any of these.

Thanks and have a good rest of your day.

Aileen

Media requests summary:

- NEW – **PHSA: Zachary Roman, Salmon Arm Observer** – Sicamous Ambulance Station - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – **VCH: Jane Seyd, North Shore News** – Lion's Gate Hospital – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – **VCH: Akshay Kulkarni, CBC Vancouver** – VCH surgeries - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – **VIHA: Roszan Holmen, CFX 1070** – paediatric diversion - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – **VIHA: Ian Holliday, CTV** – VIHA Hospital Capacity - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – **VIHA: CHEK News; CTV VI; Capital Daily** – ICU/hospital capacity/COVID-19 patients - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – **NH: Thom Barker, Interior News** – Smithers Hospital - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – **FH: Grace Kennedy, Fraser Valley Current** – maternity diversion - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – **HLTH: Shannon Waters, BC Today** – Northern Health Projects - **Deadline** Monday, September 20, 2021 4:00 PM
- REVISED – **HLTH: Marcella Bernardo, News 1130** – cancelled surgeries/nurse recruitment - **Deadline** Wednesday, September 15, 2021 5:00 PM
- NEW – **HLTH: Rod Link, Terrace Standard** – Northern Health investments - **Deadline** Thursday, September 16, 2021 12:00 PM
- NEW **HLTH: TBD** – statement re: Northern Health staffing challenges - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW **PHSA: Aaron McArthur, Global** – interview with Dr. Manish Sadarangani, BC Children's Hospital on Pfizer study on vaccine for children under 11 - **Deadline** – ASAP
- NEW – **VCH: Simon Little, Global** – Corduroy Restaurant says it won't follow BC Vaccine Card requirement **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – **COVID: Stefan Labbe, Glacier Media** – Follow up on contact tracing **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – **COVID: Liza Yuzda, News 1130** – Number of health care workers vaccinated **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW -- **COVID: Mike Howell, Glacier Media** – Data on the demographic currently getting vaccinated **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – **COVID: Corey Bullock, Cranbrook Daily Townsman** – BC Vaccine Card **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – **COVID: Celeste Steindl, KSQM News Victoria** – Circuit breaker **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – **COVID: Mandy Wen, Fairchild AM** -- Name appearing on BC Vaccine Card **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – **COVID: Joel Ballard, CBC** – BC Vaccine Card rationale for businesses chosen **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – **COVID: Yvette Brend, CBC** – unvaccinated COVID case **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – **COVID (PHSA): Chen Wang, Globe & Mail** – school exposure notifications **Deadline** ASAP

Interviews:

- **COVID: Kala Wood, CFX 1070** – interview with Al Ferraby re: general health/vaccine card updates and senior home outbreaks (flexible date, 6:50, 7:20, 7:50, 8:20, or 8:50)
- NEW – **PHSA: Carly Weeks, Globe & Mail** – interview with Dr. Laura Sauve on delta variant and children - **Deadline** – early this week

DBH:

- NEW – **COVID: Craig Takeuchi, Georgia Straight** – interview re: pandemic, cold and flu season (Sept 20-24)

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

COVID Request: vaccines for kids age 5-11

Reporter

Aaron McArthur, Reporter
Global TV | BC
aaron.mcarthur@globalnews.ca
604-619-6669

Deadline ASAP

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Recommendation

s.13

Background

s.13

PHSA Media Request: Sicamous Ambulance Station

Reporter

Zachary Roman
Salmon Arm Observer

Deadline ASAP

Request

Looking for details on changes to Alpha shifts at the Sicamous Ambulance Station.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

VCH Media Request: Lion's Gate Hospital

Reporter

Jane Seyd, Reporter
North Shore News
jseyd@nsnews.com
604-998-3539

Deadline ASAP

Request

Dr. McLeod indicated he is willing to speak to me about the impacts of COVID patients at LGH and what we are seeing in this fourth wave locally. Can you either let him know that he can do that or tell me why not? This request was sent through four days ago.

I notice other doctors dealing with COVID patients in other areas of the Lower Mainland (including ones in VCH) have spoken to media.

So I'm reading today about leaked LGH info on social media, claiming:

Lion's Gate Emergency unit in Amber - OCP. Overflow. 25 ED admissions. 12 covid patients. 5 in ICU. Urgent surgeries not getting done in time and that can be deadly! Doctors pondering ethical dilemma on urgent surgeries. 10 surgeries cancelled.

LGH is 108% capacity and medics wondering about over capacity protocols. OCP. Difficulties with ED admissions and surgical beds. In effect looking around at other hospitals to help out in crunch.

startling situations in two of our hospitals with patients on ECMO - blood circulation/oxygenation outside of body via machine. 1/

This is as of yesterday.

Obviously I'd like to know what the situation is in terms of how many COVID patients are at LGH and in ICU there. Can you give any info on vaxxed vs non-vaxxed or any kind of age breakdown (ie Dix likes to talk about how all of the under 50s are unvaxxed for instance) How is it impacting surgeries or hospital admissions?

Can you give me an update? Many thanks.

s.13

Recommendation s.13

s.13

s.13

VCH Media Request: VCH surgeries

Reporter

Akshay Kulkarni
CBC Vancouver

Deadline ASAP

Request

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CTV News (BC)

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s.13

Recommendation s.13

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Reporter

Shannon Waters, Reporter

BC Today

s.waters@britishcolumbiatoday.ca

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Terrace Standard

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Recommendation

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Simon Little
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Liza Yuzda, Reporter

News 1130

Liza.Yuzda@rci.rogers.com

250-361-1957 c: 250-508-6479

Deadline ASAP

Request

Do you know how many of that 150,000 are vaccinated already. Or when you will know how many of that 150,000 are vaccinated?

Recommendations. 13

s.13

Background

This is a follow-up to a media request from September 13, 2021. s.13
s.13

REQUEST:

Get reporter total of new healthcare staff who are required to be vaccinated.

RESPONSE:

Provided Background

There are approximately 200,000 healthcare workers in the province. Of the total, approximately 49,000 work in LTC.

About 150,000 workers will be directly impacted by the mandatory vaccination policy announced yesterday.

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – Breakthrough data request

Reporter

Mike Howell, Reporter
Glacier FarmMedia Network
mhowell@glaciermedia.ca
778-994-7096 c: 778-994-7096

Deadline ASAP

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- Gender?
- In which health authority do they reside?
- How many are immunocompromised?
- Occupation?
- Type of vaccine administered?

If so, can that be broken down between those people recovering at home, and those in hospital?

Many people I speak to — on and off the job — have questions about this data, so believe it would be helpful to publicize facts so not to bolster anti-vaxxers argument that fully vaccinated people are getting COVID, so why bother getting vaccinated.

When did the health ministry begin to release data showing the numbers and percentage of fully vaccinated people who have contracted COVID-19.

Also curious when the first case was discovered in B.C. when a fully vaccinated person had contracted COVID.

Deadline: ASAP, but flexible depending on whether this is immediately available or will take a couple of days to gather.

Recommendations s.13

s.13

s.13

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – BC Vaccine Card technology

Reporter

Corey Bullock, Reporter
Cranbrook Daily Townsman
corey.bullock@cranbrooktownsman.com
250-426-5201 x 5607

Deadline ASAP

Request

I am seeking a comment on the following questions. We have received similar inquiries from community members, so I thought it best to clarify through the Ministry directly. My deadline is Tuesday, Sept, 21st at 10am.

1. Why create a digital vaccine card? - Why was/is the wallet-sized paper immunization record not sufficient?
2. Did SMART Health Card create the technology for BC's digital vaccine card? If not, which tech company was responsible for creating and rolling out the digital platform? Are you able to expand on their role any further?

Recommendations. 13

s.13

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – Current COVID protocols

Reporter

Celeste Steindl, Reporter
KSQM News Victoria
crsteindl@shaw.ca

Deadline ASAP

Request

1. With daily case counts, total active cases, hospitalizations, and deaths continuing to rise – and some numbers the highest they have ever been since the pandemic began - why isn't a circuit breaker being implemented by public health?
2. As the deaths are increasing daily now, are Monoclonal Antibodies being provided to those who test positive for Covid-19 and who are showing significant symptoms?
3. With 23 exposures and subsequent "clusters/outbreaks" within families occurring throughout the school system, why isn't accurate and timely information being provided to the other students and their families?
4. If the focus of Public Health is to protect the healthcare system, why aren't public health and safety measures being taken to mitigate the rise in hospitalizations and stresses to the health system?

Recommendations.¹³

s.13

s.13

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – BC Vaccine Card name issues

Reporters

Mandy Wen, Reporter
Fairchild AM 1470 FM 96.1
mandywen@am1470.com
604-295-1234 x 1773 c: 604-551-7470

Sabrina Wong, Reporter
Fairchild AM 1470 FM 96.1
604-295-1234 c: 604-369-1470

Deadline ASAP

Request

I want to know about when a middle name or a portion of one's name as printed on government ID is omitted on the vaccine card, as many people with Chinese names (which often have several parts to the name separated by a space) have found, and if that will be a problem.

I was hoping I could get a phone interview tomorrow with Minister Dix regarding this topic, as many of our station's listeners (mainly Chinese-speaking) are concerned about this occurrence. If he is available tomorrow can we arrange for him to speak with a colleague of mine tomorrow?

My colleague in charge of the story is Mandy Wen, her email is mandywen@am1470.com, contact number 778-321-8033.

Recommendations.¹³

s.13

Background

This is a follow-up to a media request from September 14, 2021.

REQUEST:

I'm Sabrina, a reporter from Fairchild Radio. I have heard from a number of people that the name that appears on their vaccine card is different from the one shown on their government ID and I want to know if that will be a problem, and if so how can the Ministry of Health alleviate these concerns?

If possible I'd like to speak over the phone today regarding this matter, but if you're unavailable that's okay.

RESPONSE:

Provided Background

Starting next week there will be a process for people who have changed their name since being

vaccinated. People can visit: immunizationrecord.gov.bc.ca and follow the instructions to submit a Certificate of Name Change or Marriage and new photo ID so their new name is reflected on their BC Vaccine Card.

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – BC Vaccine Card rationale for businesses chosen

Reporter

Joel Ballard, Producer
CBC - Vancouver
joel.ballard@cbc.ca
604-662-6815 c: 778-995-4402

Deadline ASAP

Request

We're working on a story about why some types of businesses are included in the vaccine passport and others aren't.

How did the government choose which businesses would be included in the vaccine passport and which businesses wouldn't be?

If a business wishes it were included, is there anything it can do?

Of course, businesses can enact their own rules, but some owners feel that by not being included, they are put into difficult situations that could damage them professionally. Can you provide a response to this?

Why aren't swimming pools included when other activities in Rec Centres are?

Recommendations.¹³

s.13

s.13

COVID MEDIA REQUEST – COVID unvaccinated cases

Reporter

Yvette Brend, Reporter
CBC - Vancouver
yvette.brend@cbc.ca
604-662-6961 c: 604-787-0599

Deadline ASAP

Request

I am doing a story about J.C. Rathwell who says he was almost put on life support at Kelowna General Aug. 29 after getting very ill after contracting COVID.

He survived -- but it was close (he says) and it's turned around his thinking about vaccines.

He's unvaccinated and his posts are being shared by a lot of people who are reluctant. I am trying to get this story out in the public interest - to help make people more aware of what it's like to go through COVID with no vaccine.

Can the PHO or HM Dix offer any comment -- give the situation with the surge of unvaccinated patients at Kelowna General - and elsewhere?

I have reached out to IHS also.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID: school exposure notifications

Reporter

Chen Wang
Globe & Mail

Deadline – ASAP

Request

Reporter is not able to find provincial school-related COVID-19 case numbers online, would like to know where to find this information.

Suggested action:s.13

Recommendation s.13

s.13

Background

Response approved by BCCDC medical lead on schools.

For approval: media rollup

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants <hlthmaea@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 21, 2021 3:17:39 PM PDT
Attachments: DBH - Interview Requests - Sept 21.docx, Outstanding Media Requests - Sept 21.docx, Interview Requests - Sept 21.docx

Hi Minister,
Printing these for you momentarily.

Thanks,
Aileen

Media requests summary:

- NEW – COVID: Corey Bullock, Cranbrook Daily Townsman – BC Vaccine Card security - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Globe and Mail, CITY TV, News 1130 – HCW vaccinated rate follow up - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Brishti Basu, Capital Daily – Scholl exposures – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Brishti Basu, Capital Daily -- Mandatory vaccines for first responders – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – VCH: Georgie Smyth, CBC National – LTC/Seniors Homes Jobs - **Deadline** September 24, 2021
- NEW – NH: The Tyee; CICK 93.9FM – COVID-19, maternity diversion - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – NH: Anita Bathe, CBC Vancouver – policy on public comments - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – PHSA: Melissa Renwick, Ha-Shilth-Sa Newspaper – Zeballos Ambulance Station - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – PHSA: Chris Foulds, Kamloops This Week – Paediatric Transfer, Kamloops - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – PHSA: Mandy Moraes, Parksville-Qualicum News – BCEHS recorded message - **Deadline** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:00 PM
- **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – PHSA: Rod Link, Terrace Standard – pay structure for new SOC staffing positions - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – VIHA: Jake Romphf, Victoria News – Royal Jubilee - **Deadline** ASAP

Interviews:

- NEW – COVID: Anita Sthankiya, CBC Daybreak South – interview with Chris Walker re: vaccination cards and exemptions (Sept 22 or Sept 23, 7:35am, 5-7 mins)
- NEW – COVID: Fabienne Hareua, CBC Radio Canada – French interview re: election results, what that means for COVID-19 response, vaccinating children (Sept 22 or other day this week, 7:15am (flexible))
- NEW – COVID: Vineeta Prasad, Global TV – live Zoom interview with host Paul Haysom re: COVID-19 case numbers (Sept 22, 7:40am, 5 mins)
- NEW – COVID: Kiran Singh, CBC Early Edition – CBC morning circuit interviews re: latest on COVID-19 (Sept 22, five interviews starting at 6:37am)
- NEW: HLTH: Red FM Host TBC – study with South Asian community – time flexible

DBH:

- NEW – COVID: Craig Takeuchi, Georgia Straight – interview re: pandemic, cold and flu season (Sept 20-24)
- NEW – COVID: Penny Daflos, CTV News – zoom interview re: time cleared COVID patients

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

COVID Media Request: DBH INTERVIEW REQ - Pandemic update, where we are now, heading to cold and flu season

Reporter

Craig Takeuchi, Reporter
Georgia Straight
c_takeuchi@straight.com
604-730-7092

Deadline ASAP

Request

I was wondering if Dr. Bonnie Henry would be interested in an interview to take stock of where we are in the pandemic—a look back at how far we've come and what could potentially lie ahead—as we head into another respiratory cold and flu season.

Although I have asked some questions at daily briefings, there are numerous other questions I've been wanting to ask her throughout the pandemic that I have never gotten around to (because there were so many other pressing issues).

Some of them are quite general, including how this pandemic compares to some of her previous experiences and what her assessment is of how people have reacted to various health measures.

If she is interested in an interview, I would be available next week.

The best times for me would be:
Monday afternoon (September 20)
Wednesday anytime, except from 1 to 2 p.m. (September 22)
Thursday or Friday anytime (September 23 and 24)

I don't have a specific deadline yet so this is flexible, but it would be for an article we are hoping to put both in print and online.

COVID Follow-up Media Request: DBH INTERVIEW REQ - Time Cleared COVID patients

Reporter

Penny Daflos, Reporter
CTV News (BC)
penny.daflos@bellmedia.ca
604-787-1871

Deadline ASAP

Request

I posed this question to Dr. Henry and I find the response very confusing, and I don't think I'm the only one. I don't think Dr. Henry was intending to be evasive so I want to see if there's any way I can speak with her to clarify her position on this and why there are two sets of books, as it were.

If she can spare 10 minutes for a Zoom, I would be happy to use that answer in my story today rather than the one from the presser.

Recommendation s.13

Background

This is a follow-up to a media request from September 16, 2021.

REQUEST:

How many COVID patients are there in BC that are "time cleared"?

My understanding is that Fraser Health alone has approximately 100 patients who were admitted and tested positive for COVID but are no longer counted as such because although they're still hospitalized in ICUs and the wards) with symptoms like breathing problems, they're no longer contagious so aren't counted.

The way it's been described to me, health authorities and MoH have the number of time cleared patients who were admitted to hospital for COVID and are still in-patient so I'd like to see that by 4pm today, as well as the written policy for classifying a COVID patient as "time cleared".

COVID Media Request: BC Vaccine Cards Security

Reporter

Corey Bullock, Reporter
Cranbrook Daily Townsman
corey.bullock@cranbrooktownsman.com
250-426-5201 x 5607

Deadline ASAP

Request

Are you able to please expand on why the immunization cards are not sufficient after Sept. 26th?

Recommendation

s.13

Background

This is a follow-up to a media request from September 20, 2021.

REQUEST:

I am seeking a comment on the following questions. We have received similar inquiries from community members, so I thought it best to clarify through the Ministry directly. My deadline is Tuesday, Sept, 21st at 10am.

1. Why create a digital vaccine card? - Why was/is the wallet-sized paper immunization record not sufficient?

2. Did SMART Health Card create the technology for BC's digital vaccine card? If not, which tech company was responsible for creating and rolling out the digital platform? Are you able to expand on their role any further?

RESPONSE:

Provided Background

British Columbians have two options when it comes to their BC Vaccine Card – they can use a digital copy saved to their phone or they can show a printed copy when entering an eligible business or event. Up to and including Sept. 26, the Province will allow those eligible for a BC Vaccine Card to show the vaccination cards they received from immunization clinics. After Sept. 26, everyone aged 12 and older will need to have obtained their official BC Vaccine Card.

The BC Vaccine Card is designed using the global SMART Health Card framework. This framework is standard for provinces in Canada to create a consistent approach for international travel.

For the latest information about the BC Vaccine Card, please visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard.html>

COVID Media Request: HCW Vaccination rate follow-up

Reporters

Ashley Burr, Reporter

CITY TV

Ashley.Burr@rci.rogers.com

Justine Hunter, Reporter

Globe and Mail - BC Bureau

jhunter@globeandmail.com

250-381-6679 c: 250-857-4779

Marcella Bernardo, Reporter

News 1130

marcella.bernardo@vancouerradio.rogers.com

604-877-4400 c: 604-802-1730

Deadline ASAP

Request

So 100k of the 150k covered by the broader vaccine mandate are vaccinated? That seems awfully low, am I misreading that? Like, way below the provincial average.

We are following up on these numbers because when asking Dr. Henry and Adrian Dix today at the end of this morning's health update they said they were wrong.

To clarify we are trying to understand what percentage of B.C. health care workers, not including those in LTC, are fully vaccinated and what percentage have their first dose.

Recommendation

s.13

Background

This is a follow-up to a media request from September 21, 2021.

REQUEST:

do you have some stats on vaccine rates among health care workers?

RESPONSE:

Provided Background

There are approximately 200,000 healthcare workers in the province. Of the total, approximately 49,000 work in LTC.

About 150,000 workers will be directly impacted by the mandatory vaccination policy.

Here is the total number of people who identified themselves as health care workers when they were vaccinated, up to and including September 15th (Note that this total excludes those who identified as LTC/AL workers):

- *1st Dose: 101,273*
- *2nd Dose: 99,295*

COVID Media Request: School Exposures

Reporter

Brishti Basu, Reporter
Capital Daily
brishti@capitaldaily.ca
778-350-2238

Deadline ASAP

Request

Parents are wondering why the province decided to stop school exposure notifications for single cases in the first place, and who did Dr. Henry consult with that told her that more information about school exposures, not less, is the cause of anxiety?

Henry mentioned today that there'll be a new system of letting parents know when there are COVID cases in schools, and that it'll be "less intrusive". What is this system going to look like and is there a timeline for implementation?

Recommendation

s.13

COVID Media Request: Mandatory vaccines for first responders?

Reporter

Brishti Basu, Reporter
Capital Daily
brishti@capitaldaily.ca
778-350-2238

Deadline ASAP

Request

Looking at ongoing COVID-19 clusters among the unsheltered population in Victoria, and having seen similar outbreaks in the past in Vancouver: Are there any plans to mandate vaccines for first responders who interact with vulnerable people on a regular basis?

Recommendation

s.13

COVID: ICU bed numbers

For sharing with reporters as mentioned during today's media briefing.

Health authority	Base beds	Base bed occupancy	Surge beds	Surge occupancy
FHA	136	86.0%	88	5.7%
IHA	87	97.7%	20	30.0%
NHA	40	72.5%	23	0.0%
PHSA	12	100%	16	6.3%
VCHA	146	89.0%	52	28.8%
VIHA	89	80.9%	19	0.0%
TOTAL	510	87.3%	218	12.4%

VCH Media Request: LTC/Seniors Homes Jobs

Reporter

Georgie Smyth, Producer
CBC - National
georgina.smyth@cbc.ca
604-662-6804 c: 778-697-9445

Deadline Friday, September 24, 2021 12:00 PM

Request

Some friends of mine in healthcare have been mentioning to me that there seems to be a lot of jobs being advertised for long term care/seniors homes at the moment.

I know that VCH lists jobs here https://careers-vch.icims.com/jobs/search?pr=3&searchKeyword=long+term+care&searchRelation=keyword_all&schemald=&o= is there anyway to know if there is more demand for people right now?

It'd be an interesting story to tie into the province's plans to bring more nurses and care aids into the sector.

Recommendation

s.13

NH Media Request: COVID-19, maternity diversion**Reporter**

Amanda Follett Hosgood, Reporter

The Tyee

afolletthosgood@thetyee.ca

250-877-3758

CICK 93.9fm Smithers Community Radio

Deadline ASAP**Request**

Now that the election's over I'm turning my attention to what's happening in the north with COVID, particularly here in the Smithers area. I have many questions related to the recent spike in numbers here and effects on services at the local hospital — any chance Northern Health could provide someone for an interview?

I understand the province is moving away from COVID-designated hospitals and working on accommodating patients with COVID in their communities. I'm hoping someone could better explain this.

I'm also looking for an update on patients, and in particular those in labour or having a C-section, being diverted from Smithers to other hospitals. I think initially that was a temporary measure until yesterday but I'm wondering if it's been extended.

Please let me know! It would be great to connect with someone for an update.

Recommendation

s.13

NH Media Request: policy on public comments

Reporter

Anita Bathe, Reporter
CBC - Vancouver
anita.bathe@cbc.ca
604-662-6910 c: 778-242-5915

Deadline ASAP

Request

I know Andrew mentioned to you that our top story tonight on our 6pm show is the COVID situation in northern health.

We are hearing from doctors, nurses and RTs that they are being threatened with legal action if they speak out to the media without the permission of Northern Health.

We are also hearing that Northern Health monitors their social media accounts and reprimands them if they say anything about the pandemic.

These accusations seem to be unique to Northern Health as we have spoken to many doctors and nurses in other health authorities who do not feel this way and do in fact speak out.

We're hoping Northern Health can put up a spokesperson to address these concerns.

I'm hoping to have the following questions answered.

Is Northern Health threatening legal action against doctors, nurses and/or RTs if they speak out about the COVID situation in the NHA?

And by speak out that... that could be to the media, to the public or on social media.

Why is Northern Health preventing health workers from speaking to the media on the current COVID situation there?

What happens if a health care worker in the NHA does talk to the media? Will they be told not to? Will they be reprimanded? Or are they allowed to do that without issue?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

s.13

PHSA Media Request: Zeballos Ambulance Station

Reporter

Melissa Renwick, Reporter
Ha-Shilth-Sa Newspaper
Melissa.Renwick@nuuchahnulth.org
416-436-4277

Deadline ASAP

Request

Asking about the latest changes at the Zeballos Ambulance Station

Recommendation s.13

s.13

PHSA Media Request: Paediatric Transfer, Kamloops

Reporter

Chris Foulds, Editor
Kamloops This Week
editor@kamloopsthisweek.com
778-471-7525

Deadline ASAP

Request

Journalist is writing a story about a family whose baby died in Royal Inland Hospital, at one month old. Baby died of a heart condition. He is asking questions about the hospital transfer process as the baby died before transferred to Children's Hospital. Parents have requested a Patient Care Quality Review.

Considerations

s.13

Recommendation s.13

s.13

PHSA Media Request: BCEHS recorded message

Reporter

Mandy Moraes, Reporter
Parksville - Qualicum News
mandy.moraes@pqbnews.com
250-905-0028

Deadline Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:00 PM

Request

Wife of Mr. Blakey reached out to the paper after a (good) conversation with BCEHS' Leanne Heppell. Family told the reporter that they found the recorded message upsetting and that it would be reviewed as to whether it needs changing. Reporter is asking to confirm whether the recorded message will be changed, and if so, to what extent, and would there be a timeline associated with the change?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

Background

PHSA sent this statement to the same reporter last week:

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and loved ones of the man who died. We will be conducting a review, and will be working with the Patient Care Quality Office to ensure his family's concerns and questions are addressed. People must have confidence that when they call 911 they are connected with BCEHS dispatch and an ambulance arrives quickly. Our ambulance system was put to the test this summer and we are taking action to improve service and response times for people, and we are making progress. The Province is adding more paramedics, dispatch staff, and supports for front line workers. A new dedicated board chair and Chief Ambulance Officer have been appointed and they are working with union partners and frontline workers to identify solutions to long-existing issues.

PHSA Media Request: pay structure for new SOC staffing positions

Reporter

Rod Link, Reporter
Terrace Standard
rodlink@terracestandard.com
250-638-7283

Deadline ASAP

Request

Asking what is the pay structure for new SOC staffing positions in BC.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

VIHA Media Request: Royal Jubilee**Reporter**

Jake Romphf, Other
Victoria News
jake.romphf@blackpress.ca
519-464-2785

Deadline ASAP**Request**

I'm following up with the question Katie Engqvist sent you earlier. I was just on the line for the COVID-19 briefing, but I didn't get to ask a question about Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria. Can you say if the hospital's emergency, COVID and ICU departments are currently full?

Also, what specifically is leading to those capacity issues if they are full?

I know Minister Dix addressed the stress Northern Health hospitals are facing, so could you say if any patients from there have been moved to Royal Jubilee?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID Media Request: MD INTERVIEW REQ - Vaccine card exemptions

Reporter

Anita Sthankiya, Producer
CBC - Daybreak South
anita.sthankiya@cbc.ca
250-899-2662

Deadline Tuesday, September 21, 2021 12:00 PM

Request

Hope you are doing well. I am wondering if the Minister would have time and be interested in joining our morning show, Daybreak South with Chris Walker this week for a 5-7 minute interview?

We are looking to discuss the vaccination card and a number of concerns raised about exemptions for the card. We will have a guest on our program in the next day or so who has received the first vaccination and had adverse effects.

She has fully vaccinated her family, but cannot get the second dose for herself due to the adverse reaction she experienced and has this validated by a specialist, who recommends against getting the second dose.

She is now concerned about the October 24th deadline to be double vaccinated in order to work, enter non-essential businesses etc because of this.

We are hoping for a response from the Minister about this and what those who have legitimate health limitations can do when it comes to the vaccine and the restrictions for those who are not fully vaccinated.

I have time on the program on Wednesday at 7:35 am or Thursday at the same time. If neither of those work, I can look at a different time for the interview.

COVID Media Request: MD INTERVIEW REQ (French) - federal election results and what it means for COVID response, vaccinating children

Reporter

Fabienne Hareau, Producer
CBC Radio Canada
fabienne.hareau@radio-canada.ca
604-662-6230

Deadline ASAP

Request

Was wondering if there is any chance to have Minister Dix talk to us in French on our morning show Phare Ouest tomorrow (Sept 22) or any other day this week?

It would ideally be at 7:15 am but again we will accommodate M. Dix's busy schedule.

We would like his reaction as to the federal elections results.. what does it mean for the fight against COVID?

And also talk about the potential vaccination of children?

COVID Media Request: MD or DBH INTERVIEW REQ - Global Morning Show - latest on COVID

Reporter

Vineeta Prasad, Producer
Global TV | BC
vineeta.prasad@globalnews.ca
604-422-6740 c: 604-724-7591

Deadline ASAP

Request

Vineeta here from Global. I hope you are keeping well.

Wondering if either Dr. Henry or Minister Dix might be available for a quick zoom interview on Global BC's Morning news tomorrow at 7:40 am via zoom, to talk COVID numbers of course.

Interview would be live to air – for about 5 minutes – with Morning News host Paul Haysom.

COVID Media Request: MD or DBH INTERVIEW REQ - CBC Morning Circuit - latest in COVID

Reporter

Kiran Singh, Producer
CBC Early Edition
kiran.singh@cbc.ca
778-251-0084

Deadline ASAP

Request

I'd like to invite either Dr. Bonnie Henry or Minister Adrian Dix on air with us.

We are hoping to have either of them on tomorrow for this schedule:

6:37 AM - Early Edition with Stephen Quinn. Studio number: 604-669-3733 or 604-662-7157
6:50 AM - On the Island with Gregor Craigie. Studio number: 250-360-2227
7:00 AM - Daybreak Kamloops with Shelley Joyce. Studio number: 250 374 6837
7:10 AM - Daybreak South with Chris Walker. Studio number: 250-861-3781 OR 250-861-3272
7:33 AM - Daybreak North with Carolina de Ryk. Studio number: 250-624-8182

COVID (PHSA): Study with South Asian community

Reporter

Host TBC

RED FM

Deadline – ASAP to confirm Sept. 22 interview

Request

The Vaccine Evaluation Center (VEC) at BC Children's Hospital is currently recruiting for a study and interview will help recruit for this. Researchers want to understand the views of the South Asian Canadian community regarding:

- their experience of the pandemic and COVID-19 vaccination
- What COVID-19 and vaccine information they need

Recommendation s.13

s.13

For approval: outstanding media requests

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants <hlthmaea@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 22, 2021 2:45:14 PM PDT
Attachments: DBH - Interview Requests - Sept 22.docx, Interview Requests - Sept 22.docx, Outstanding Media Requests Sept 22.docx

Good afternoon Minister,

Please see the attached media responses for your approval. There are also several interview requests for you, Dr. Henry, and various health authority experts.

Let me know if you would like more information or edits for any of these.

Thanks and have a good rest of your day.

Aileen

Media requests summary:

- NEW – COVID: Katie Hyslop, The Tyee – School Exposure Notifications - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Charlotte Alden, The Ubysey – Deadnames on BC Vaccine Card – **Deadline** Monday, September 27, 2021
- NEW – COVID: Karen Selick, Freelancer – Vaccination definition – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Cindy Harnett, Times Colonist – Adverse events following vaccines – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Richard Zussman, Global TV – Pfizer age cohort – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Mary Griffin, CHEK TV – Vaccine misinformation – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Penny Daflos, CTV News – Discontinued Isolation – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID (Providence): Penny Daflos, CTV Vancouver – ICU patient experience **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID (VCH, NH, IH): Penny Daflos, CTV Vancouver – testing centre wait times **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID (NH): Amanda Follett Hosgood, The Tyee – COVID-designated facilities **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID (PHSA): Danielle Orr, FIX POINT arts – vaccine hesitancy **Deadline** first week October
- NEW – COVID (VCH): Sonia Aslam, News 1130 – UBC clinics, contact tracing **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID (FH): Salim Jiwa, Vancouverite – Surrey testing sites **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Robert Buffam, CTV Vancouver Island – ICU and discontinued isolation data - **Deadline** ASAP
- HLTH: Andrew Kurjata, CBC Radio Northern BC – NH ICU numbers - **Deadline** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:00 PM
- REVISED – HLTH: Shannon Waters, BC Today – Northern Health Projects - **Deadline** Monday, September 20, 2021 4:00 PM
- NEW – HLTH: Cindy Harnett, Times Colonist – Island Health ICU beds – **Deadline** Wednesday, September 22, 2021 9:00 AM
- NEW – HLTH: Cheryl Jahn, CKPG News – surgery postponements – **Deadline** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 12:00 PM
- NEW – FH: Ted Field, Global TV – Cancer Treatment Centre at Royal Columbian Hospital - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – PHSA: Dave Branco, CKPG – increase in COVID-19 call volume in NH - **Deadline** Wednesday, September 22, 2021 4:00 PM

Minister interviews:

- COVID: Anita Sthankiya, CBC Daybreak South – Minister interview with Chris Walker re: vaccination cards and exemptions (Sept 22 or Sept 23, 7:35am, 5-7 mins)
- COVID: Fabienne Hareua, CBC Radio Canada – Minister French interview re: election results, what that means for COVID-19 response, vaccinating children (Sept 22 or other day this week, 7:15am (flexible))
- COVID: Kiran Singh, CBC Early Edition – Minister CBC morning circuit interviews re: latest on COVID-19 (Sept 22, five interviews starting at 6:37am)

HA interviews:

- NEW – COVID (VCH): Gloria Macarenko, CBC On the Coast – interview with Dr. Schwartz on long-haulers impact on health care system **Deadline** Sept. 23, 11 a.m.
- NEW – COVID (VCH): CBC Early Edition – interview with Dr. Daly on COVID testing (Sept. 24 at 7:40 a.m.)
- NEW – PHSA: Kevin Stanfield, CTV Calgary – interview with Sarah Henderson re: wildfire smoke effects

- **NEW – NH: Xiao XU, Globe and Mail** – interview with Northeast Chief Operating Officer **Angela De Smit** re: FSJ nursing shortages
- **NEW – RED FM** – Punjabi-language interview with XX re: South Asian community and COVID-19 vaccine, pandemic experience

DBH Interviews:

- **COVID: Craig Takeuchi, Georgia Straight** – interview re: pandemic, cold and flu season (Sept 20-24)
- **NEW – COVID: Jason Manaois, CKNW** – interview with Simi Sara re: vaccine misinformation and school exposure notifications (Sept 23, 8:16am or 8:35am, 7-8 mins)

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

COVID Media Request: DBH INTERVIEW REQ - Pandemic update, where we are now, heading to cold and flu season

Reporter

Craig Takeuchi, Reporter
Georgia Straight
c_takeuchi@straight.com
604-730-7092

Deadline ASAP

Request

I was wondering if Dr. Bonnie Henry would be interested in an interview to take stock of where we are in the pandemic—a look back at how far we've come and what could potentially lie ahead—as we head into another respiratory cold and flu season.

Although I have asked some questions at daily briefings, there are numerous other questions I've been wanting to ask her throughout the pandemic that I have never gotten around to (because there were so many other pressing issues).

Some of them are quite general, including how this pandemic compares to some of her previous experiences and what her assessment is of how people have reacted to various health measures.

If she is interested in an interview, I would be available next week.

The best times for me would be:
Monday afternoon (September 20)
Wednesday anytime, except from 1 to 2 p.m. (September 22)
Thursday or Friday anytime (September 23 and 24)

I don't have a specific deadline yet so this is flexible, but it would be for an article we are hoping to put both in print and online.

COVID Media Request: DBH interview request - Simi Sara - vaccine misinformation and school exposure notifications

Reporter

Jason Manaois, Producer
CKNW AM 980
jason.manaois@corusent.com
604-331-2738 c: 604-720-3974

Deadline ASAP

Request

7-8 minutes one on one with host tomorrow morning at 8:16 or 8:35

COVID Media Request: MD INTERVIEW REQ - Vaccine card exemptions

Reporter

Anita Sthankiya, Producer
CBC - Daybreak South
anita.sthankiya@cbc.ca
250-899-2662

Deadline Tuesday, September 21, 2021 12:00 PM

Request

Hope you are doing well. I am wondering if the Minister would have time and be interested in joining our morning show, Daybreak South with Chris Walker this week for a 5-7 minute interview?

We are looking to discuss the vaccination card and a number of concerns raised about exemptions for the card. We will have a guest on our program in the next day or so who has received the first vaccination and had adverse effects.

She has fully vaccinated her family, but cannot get the second dose for herself due to the adverse reaction she experienced and has this validated by a specialist, who recommends against getting the second dose.

She is now concerned about the October 24th deadline to be double vaccinated in order to work, enter non-essential businesses etc because of this.

We are hoping for a response from the Minister about this and what those who have legitimate health limitations can do when it comes to the vaccine and the restrictions for those who are not fully vaccinated.

I have time on the program on Wednesday at 7:35 am or Thursday at the same time. If neither of those work, I can look at a different time for the interview.

COVID Media Request: MD INTERVIEW REQ (French) - federal election results and what it means for COVID response, vaccinating children

Reporter

Fabienne Hareau, Producer
CBC Radio Canada
fabienne.hareau@radio-canada.ca
604-662-6230

Deadline ASAP

Request

Was wondering if there is any chance to have Minister Dix talk to us in French on our morning show Phare Ouest tomorrow (Sept 22) or any other day this week?

It would ideally be at 7:15 am but again we will accommodate M. Dix's busy schedule.

We would like his reaction as to the federal elections results.. what does it mean for the fight against COVID?

And also talk about the potential vaccination of children?

COVID Media Request: MD or DBH INTERVIEW REQ - CBC Morning Circuit - latest in COVID

Reporter

Kiran Singh, Producer
CBC Early Edition
kiran.singh@cbc.ca
778-251-0084

Deadline ASAP

Request

I'd like to invite either Dr. Bonnie Henry or Minister Adrian Dix on air with us.

We are hoping to have either of them on tomorrow for this schedule:

6:37 AM - Early Edition with Stephen Quinn. Studio number: 604-669-3733 or 604-662-7157
6:50 AM - On the Island with Gregor Craigie. Studio number: 250-360-2227
7:00 AM - Daybreak Kamloops with Shelley Joyce. Studio number: 250 374 6837
7:10 AM - Daybreak South with Chris Walker. Studio number: 250-861-3781 OR 250-861-3272
7:33 AM - Daybreak North with Carolina de Ryk. Studio number: 250-624-8182

HA INTERVIEW REQUEST

COVID (VCH): long-haulers

Reporter

Gloria Macarenko

CBC On the Coast

Deadline –Sept. 23, 11 a.m.

Request

Reporter is looking to speak to someone about COVID-19 long-haul to get a sense of demand chronic COVID-19 places on healthcare system.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

HA INTERVIEW REQUEST

COVID (VCH): when to get tested

Reporter

Jeremy Alingham

CBC Early Edition

Deadline – ASAP to book for Sept. 24 show

Request

We are hoping Dr. Patricia Daly might be available for an open line segment on Friday morning at 7:40 a.m. It would last about 15 minutes and we would take listener calls. The focus will be as fall respiratory season begins, what do you need to know about when to get tested?

Recommendation -s.13

HA INTERVIEW REQUEST

PHSA Media Request: interview with Sarah Henderson

Reporter

Kevin Stanfield, Reporter

CTV - Calgary

kevin.stanfield@bellmedia.ca

403-240-5600 c: 403-827-5167

Deadline Wednesday, September 29, 2021 12:00 PM

Request

Reporter is requesting an interview with Sarah Henderson, Scientific Director, Environmental Health Services, BCCDC, about the health effects of wildfire smoke.

The interview is part of a series to increase public knowledge about smoky summers.

Recommendation s.13

HA INTERVIEW REQUEST

NH Media Request: FSJ nursing shortages

Reporter

Xiao Xu, Reporter
Globe and Mail - BC Bureau
XXu@globeandmail.com
604-631-6612 c: 778-668-3063

Deadline Wednesday, September 22, 2021 4:00 PM

Request

Seeking HA spokesperson on nurse shortage in Fort St. John; also asking to speak to front-line health care workers

Recommendations.13

s.13

BC Children's Hospital Interview – Gurvir Dhutt
COVID (PHSA): Study with South Asian community

Reporter

Host TBC

RED FM

Deadline – ASAP to confirm Sept. 22 interview

Request

The Vaccine Evaluation Center (VEC) at BC Children's Hospital is currently recruiting for a study and interview will help recruit for this. Researchers want to understand the views of the South Asian Canadian community regarding:

- their experience of the pandemic and COVID-19 vaccination
- What COVID-19 and vaccine information they need

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID Media Request: School Exposure Notifications

Reporter

Katie Hyslop, Reporter
The Tyee
khyslop@thetyee.ca
778-887-3951

Deadline ASAP

Request

I'm currently working on a story about how contact tracing and parent notification currently works in B.C. schools. I realize this is set to change very soon as per Dr. Henry's announcement this morning, but my story will ideally be out before then.

In addition to looking for an overview, I have heard from three sources, all parents of school-aged children with COVID, who were told by their school principals to not discuss their child's COVID diagnosis with anyone in the school community. Wondering if preventing parents from sharing information about their own children is protocol?

Is the applicable minister available for a phone interview by 10 am on Thursday, Sept. 23?

Recommendation

s.13

COVID Media Request: Dead names on BC Vaccine Card

Reporter

Charlotte Alden, Editor
The Ubysey
c.alden@ubyssey.ca

Deadline Monday, September 27, 2021 12:00 PM

Request

My name is Charlotte Alden, an editor at UBC's student newspaper The Ubysey.

We've learned of some concerns from trans members of our community about the BC Vaccine Card. Currently, the process requires people to show their BC Vaccine Card, along with a piece of ID. Due to the trickiness of changing one's legal name, many trans people have their deadnames on their IDs — meaning that under this current system, they're forced to reveal their deadname to strangers fairly often, something that is traumatizing for some of them.

I'm writing a story on this that I'm hoping to put out by next Tuesday. I'm writing to see if the Ministry has thought about this, or considered any alternatives to prevent this outing from happening to trans people in our community.

Happy to answer any questions you might have about this issue. I'm reachable at (301) 412-4899 and news@ubyssey.ca.

Recommendation

s.13

COVID Media Request: Vaccination definition

Reporter

Karen Selick, Freelancer
Freelancer
karen.selick@gmail.com

Deadline ASAP

Request

Can you please tell me what definitions of “vaccinated”, “unvaccinated”, “fully vaccinated” and “partially vaccinated” are being used by the Minister of Health when he releases statistics regarding COVID cases, hospitalizations, and ICU occupancy via Twitter or other media?

More specifically, I’d like to know whether the Health Minister uses the same definition of “fully vaccinated” that is used by the Centres for Disease Control, as set out on this page:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>

Recommendation

s.13

COVID Media Request: Adverse events following vaccine

Reporter

Cindy Harnett, Reporter
Times Colonist
CHarnett@timescolonist.com
250-380-5348 c: 250-213-3603

Deadline ASAP

Request

I have a story written on an unvaccinated woman who died of COVID. She did so because she feared an adverse reaction from COVID vaccines.

Can you please give me the latest update on the number of adverse events related to COVID vaccines - serious reactions and separately deaths?

Recommendation

s.13

COVID Media Request: Pfizer vaccine age cohort**Reporter**

Richard Zussman, Reporter
Global TV | BC
richard.zussman@globalnews.ca
250-216-7328

Deadline ASAP**Request**

I am trying to understand who will be eligible for the vaccine when Pfizer gets approval for a COVID shot for kids.

Dr. Henry mentioned 6 to 11. Is this the 2015 group or you must be 6. Why 6 and not 5.

Recommendation

s.13

Background

s.13

COVID Media Request: Vaccine misinformation

Reporter

Mary Griffin, Reporter
CHEK TV - Victoria
mgriffin@cheknews.ca
250-480-3700 c: 250-213-8979

Deadline ASAP

Request

Yesterday during the COVID briefing, Dr. Henry mentioned a viral video as a deterrent for vaccination by people thinking of getting pregnant, who are pregnant, and those breastfeeding.

Do you happen to know what video she was referring to?

Recommendation

s.13

Background

s.13

COVID Media Request: Discontinued Isolation

Reporter

Penny Daflos, Reporter

CTV News (BC)

penny.daflos@bellmedia.ca<mailto:penny.daflos@bellmedia.ca>

604-787-1871

Deadline ASAP

Request

How many COVID patients are there in BC that are "time cleared"?

My understanding is that Fraser Health alone has approximately 100 patients who were admitted and tested positive for COVID but are no longer counted as such because although they're still hospitalized in ICUs and the wards) with symptoms like breathing problems, they're no longer contagious so aren't counted.

The way it's been described to me, health authorities and MoH have the number of time cleared patients who were admitted to hospital for COVID and are still in-patient so I'd like to see that by 4pm today, as well as the written policy for classifying a COVID patient as "time cleared".

Recommendation

s.13

Background

s.13

COVID (Providence): ICU experience

Reporter

Penny Daflos

CTV Vancouver

penny.daflos@bellmedia.ca

Cell: 604 787 1871

Deadline – ASAP

Request

Reporter requests a tour of Covid-19 ICU at St. Paul's Hospital, and to speak with an ICU physician, nurse, RT – those who can describe the type of treatment COVID patients receive, e.g. being placed on ventilators, needing ECMO. Stated goal is to show viewers that getting the vaccine is better than risking needing this kind of intensive care. Reporter/camera are double-vaccinated and privacy protocols would be respected.

Recommendation s.13

COVID (VCH, NH, IH): testing centre wait times

Reporter

Penny Daflos

CTV Vancouver

penny.daflos@bellmedia.ca

Cell: 604 787 1871

Deadline – ASAP

Request

Reporter has requested interviews with BCCDC, Northern Health and Interior Health regarding COVID-19 testing wait times. Reporter says the BCCDC dashboard indicates that testing centres now require an appointment however, she is hearing from people who say the lines are busy whenever they call and that they can't get an appointment for testing even though they have symptoms. She says Dr. Mark Lysyshyn with VCH briefed family doctors this week that there was less demand so hours at sites were being scaled back. She's unclear if the doctor was referring to VCH facilities or provincially.

Background for MO

s.13

Recommendation s.13

s.13

s.13

COVID (NH): COVID-designated facilities

Reporter

Amanda Follett Hosgood

The Tyee

Deadline – ASAP

Request

Reporter asks: just to confirm, does the Province still have COVID-designated facilities? Are we moving toward accommodating COVID patients in smaller centres rather than sending them to designated facilities?

Recommendations.¹³

s.13

Background for MO

s.13

COVID (PHSA): vaccine hesitancy

Reporter

Danielle Orr

[FIX POINT Arts and Media's Empathy Squad](#)

(289) 208-2381

danielleorr@empathysquad.ca

Deadline – first week of October

Request

Non-profit group has requested an interview with Dr. Julie Bettinger, vaccine safety scientist at the Vaccine Evaluation Centre and Investigator at BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, for their podcast. FIXT POINT Arts and Media is a non-profit arts organization that is funded primarily through government programs and community partners. The Empathy Squad Program is specifically funded through the Canada Service Corp program, "Leaders Today." Sections of the interview would be used in this fall's cohort project, which is a larger podcast project. Both are edited audio/podcast pieces.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID (VCH): UBC clinics, contact tracing, notifications

Reporter

Sonia Aslam

News 1130

Deadline – ASAP

Request

A prof at UBC has tweeted a bunch of scathy tweets about how COVID isn't being tracked on campus and how VCH isn't really doing its job.

<https://twitter.com/MDrelichman/status/1440428025766559750?s=20>

Reads:

- So, despite earlier promises and assurances, @UBC: does not yet have a vaccine clinic on campus, is not verifying vaccination status and has no idea of how it will do it, has no idea of the vaccination status of 1/3 of the population of its campuses.

<https://twitter.com/MDrelichman/status/1440559629470081028?s=20>

Reads:

- IMPORTANT INFO for @UBC students that have tested positive and want their classmates and professors to be aware of a potential exposure. @VCHhealthcare will most likely not inform them. You can ensure they know, but you have to do the legwork yourself. Here's how.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

s.13

COVID (FH): Surrey testing sites

Reporter

Salim Jiwa
Vancouverite

Deadline – ASAP

Request

Reporter would like to know why there is only one COVID-19 testing site in Surrey considering how big of an area and population it covers. Reporter would like to know if there is a plan to for additional testing sites.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID: ICU and discontinued isolation data

Reporter

Robert Buffam, Reporter
CTV Vancouver Island - Victoria
robert.buffam@bellmedia.ca
250-507-6715

Deadline ASAP

Request

- 1) How many patients are currently in ICU's IN BC?
- 2) How many people are in BC ICU's with COVID?
- 2) How many patients are currently in BC's ICU's but not included in the total posted publicly, because they are no longer deemed infectious?
- 3) Why does the government not release the actual total of people in ICU's?

Recommendation

s.13

HLTH Media Request: Northern Health ICU numbers

Reporter

Andrew Kurjata, Producer
CBC Radio Northern BC

Deadline Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:00 PM

Request

I am looking for updated numbers on the number of ICU beds available in the Northern Health zone, broken down by hospital or city. Previously these numbers were broken down into Prince George, Fort St. John, Terrace and other.

Consideration:s.13

s.13

Recommendation s.13

s.13

HLTH Media Request: Northern Health Projects

Reporter

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

Deadline Monday, September 20, 2021 4:00 PM

Request

I am looking for further details on last week's announcement about funding for staff recruitment and retention in Northern Health.

The minister and the release specified that the government is providing ~\$3 million "to offer financial incentives and support for priority health-care workers" and that this money is in addition to - not out of - Northern Health's budget.

- Are there any further details on what this "comprehensive health-care worker rural retention program" means? Which health care workers is it available to (physicians, nurses, HCAs, is it only acute care or long-term care as well)?
- What is the timeline for rolling out this funding?

Re: the "further projects," is that funding also coming from the province or is it being redirected out of Northern Health's budget?

I would also, at some point, appreciate an update on the ambulance resource funding announced on July 14. How much is being spent, at least.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

HLTH Media Request: Island Health ICU beds**Reporter**

Cindy Harnett, Reporter
Times Colonist
CHarnett@timescolonist.com
250-380-5348 c: 250-213-3603

Deadline Wednesday, September 22, 2021 9:00 AM

Request

There are about 16 COVID patients in ICUs in RJH, NRGH, and VGH. Correct? How many staffed ICU beds are there in total in each of these three hospitals?

Recommendation

s.13

HLTH Media Request: Surgery postponements

Reporter

Cheryl Jahn, Reporter
CKPG News (Prince George)
Cheryl.Jahn@jpbg.ca
250-961-4827

Deadline Tuesday, September 21, 2021 12:00 PM

Request

Looking for number of surgeries that were postponed in first wave, second wave and third wave of COVID by each health authority

Recommendation

s.13

s.13

FH Media Request: Cancer Treatment Centre at Royal Columbian Hospital

Reporter

Ted Field, Assignment Editor
Global TV | BC
ted.field@globalnews.ca
604-837-3136 c: 778-945-9079

Deadline ASAP

Request

Reporter would like to confirm if the Cancer Treatment Centre at Royal Columbian Hospital is closed after two oncologists left, and if patients have been moved to Surrey and Burnaby Hospitals for treatment.

Considerations

s.13

Recommendation

s.13

PHSA Media Request: increase in COVID-19 call volume in Northern Health

Reporter

Dave Branco, Reporter
CKPG News (Prince George)
dave.branco@jpbhg.ca
250-564-8861 x 227 c: 250-960-8194

Deadline Wednesday, September 22, 2021 4:00 PM

Request

Reporter is inquiring about an increase in call volume for paramedics in the Northern Health Region related to an increase in COVID calls in the area.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

s.13

Page 207 of 269 to/à Page 208 of 269

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Fwd: For approval: outstanding media requests

From: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>
To: Adrian Dix^{s.17} , Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 22, 2021 2:49:10 PM PDT
Attachments: DBH - Interview Requests - Sept 22.docx, Interview Requests - Sept 22.docx, Outstanding Media Requests Sept 22.docx

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX" <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Date: September 22, 2021 at 2:45:15 PM PDT
To: "Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX" <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants <hlthmaea@victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Subject: For approval: outstanding media requests

Good afternoon Minister,
Please see the attached media responses for your approval. There are also several interview requests for you, Dr. Henry, and various health authority experts.

Let me know if you would like more information or edits for any of these.

Thanks and have a good rest of your day.
Aileen

Media requests summary:

- NEW – COVID: Katie Hyslop, The Tyee – School Exposure Notifications - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Charlotte Alden, The Ubysey – Deadnames on BC Vaccine Card – **Deadline** Monday, September 27, 2021
- NEW – COVID: Karen Selick, Freelancer – Vaccination definition – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Cindy Harnett, Times Colonist – Adverse events following vaccines – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Richard Zussman, Global TV – Pfizer age cohort – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Mary Griffin, CHEK TV – Vaccine misinformation – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Penny Daflos, CTV News – Discontinued Isolation – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID (Providence): Penny Daflos, CTV Vancouver – ICU patient experience **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID (VCH, NH, IH): Penny Daflos, CTV Vancouver – testing centre wait times **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID (NH): Amanda Follett Hosgood, The Tyee – COVID-designated facilities **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID (PHSA): Danielle Orr, FIX POINT arts – vaccine hesitancy **Deadline** first week October
- NEW – COVID (VCH): Sonia Aslam, News 1130 – UBC clinics, contact tracing **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID (FH): Salim Jiwa, Vancouverite – Surrey testing sites **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Robert Buffam, CTV Vancouver Island – ICU and discontinued isolation data - **Deadline** ASAP
- HLTH: Andrew Kurjata, CBC Radio Northern BC – NH ICU numbers - **Deadline** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:00 PM
- REVISED – HLTH: Shannon Waters, BC Today – Northern Health Projects - **Deadline** Monday, September 20, 2021 4:00 PM
- NEW – HLTH: Cindy Harnett, Times Colonist – Island Health ICU beds – **Deadline** Wednesday, September 22, 2021 9:00 AM

- NEW – **HLTH: Cheryl Jahn, CKPG News** – surgery postponements – **Deadline** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 12:00 PM
- NEW – **FH: Ted Field, Global TV** – Cancer Treatment Centre at Royal Columbian Hospital - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – **PHSA: Dave Branco, CKPG** – increase in COVID-19 call volume in NH - **Deadline** Wednesday, September 22, 2021 4:00 PM

Minister interviews:

- **COVID: Anita Sthankiya, CBC Daybreak South** – Minister interview with Chris Walker re: vaccination cards and exemptions (Sept 22 or Sept 23, 7:35am, 5-7 mins)
- **COVID: Fabienne Hareua, CBC Radio Canada** – Minister French interview re: election results, what that means for COVID-19 response, vaccinating children (Sept 22 or other day this week, 7:15am (flexible))
- **COVID: Kiran Singh, CBC Early Edition** – Minister CBC morning circuit interviews re: latest on COVID-19 (Sept 22, five interviews starting at 6:37am)

HA interviews:

- NEW – **COVID (VCH): Gloria Macarenko, CBC On the Coast** – interview with **Dr. Schwartz** on long-haulers impact on health care system **Deadline** Sept. 23, 11 a.m.
- NEW – **COVID (VCH): CBC Early Edition** – interview with **Dr. Daly** on COVID testing (Sept. 24 at 7:40 a.m.)
- NEW – **PHSA: Kevin Stanfield, CTV Calgary** – interview with **Sarah Henderson** re: wildfire smoke effects
- NEW – **NH: Xiao XU, Globe and Mail** – interview with Northeast Chief Operating Officer **Angela De Smit** re: FSJ nursing shortages
- NEW – **RED FM** – Punjabi-language interview with XX re: South Asian community and COVID-19 vaccine, pandemic experience

DBH Interviews:

- **COVID: Craig Takeuchi, Georgia Straight** – interview re: pandemic, cold and flu season (Sept 20-24)
- NEW – **COVID: Jason Manaois, CKNW** – interview with Simi Sara re: vaccine misinformation and school exposure notifications (Sept 23, 8:16am or 8:35am, 7-8 mins)

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

For approval: outstanding media requests

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants <hlthmaea@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 23, 2021 1:55:05 PM PDT
Attachments: DBH - Interview Requests.docx, Interview Requests.docx, Outstanding Media Requests Sept 23.docx

Good afternoon Minister,

Please see the attached media responses for your approval, along with a few interview requests for consideration.

Let me know if you would like more information or edits for any of these.

Thanks and have a good rest of your day.

Aileen

Media requests summary:

- NEW – COVID: Diane Strandberg, Tri-City News – Vaccine Safety for teens -- **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Georgie Smyth, CBC National – HCW Mandatory Vaccines – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Charlotte Alden, The Ubysey – Deadnames – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Melissa Lopez-Martinez, CTV – COVID-19 Data – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Alex McKeen, The Star – Anti-maskers, anti-vaxxers – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Brishti Basu, Capital Daily – Contact Tracing – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Katie Hyslop, The Tyee – Notifications for parents school exposure - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID (VIHA): Brishti Basu, Capital Dily – Unhoused COVID cases **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID (VIHA): Brishti Basu, Capital Dily – Unhoused COVID cases/high case counts **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID (VIHA): Susie Quinn, Alberni Valley News – Alberni Valley COVID cases **Deadline** – ASAP
- NEW – VIHA: Moira Wyton, The Tyee – alleged altercation at Royal Jubilee Hospital - **Deadline** Thursday, September 23, 2021 4:00 PM
- REVISED – VIHA: Adam Van Der Zwan, CBC Victoria – employer/employee issues at Port Alberni LTC sites - **Deadline** Thursday, September 23, 2021 12:00 PM
- NEW – NH: Xiao Xu, Globe and Mail – ICU capacity - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – HLTH: Diane Strandberg, Tri-City News – Eagle Ridge News Release - **Deadline** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:00 PM

Minister and health authority interview requests:

- NEW – COVID: Matthew Mcfarlane, CBC Vancouver – interview re: VCH dose 1 18-29 at 99%
- NEW – COVID: Hop Phan, Lac Viet Radio – Facebook live stream interview with questions from callers re: recognition of mixed vaccines in US and overseas (Oct 2, between 9-10am, 30 mins)

DBH Interviews:

- COVID: Craig Takeuchi, Georgia Straight – interview re: pandemic, cold and flu season (Sept 20-24)

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

COVID Media Request: DBH INTERVIEW REQ - Pandemic update, where we are now, heading to cold and flu season

Reporter

Craig Takeuchi, Reporter
Georgia Straight
c_takeuchi@straight.com
604-730-7092

Deadline ASAP

Request

I was wondering if Dr. Bonnie Henry would be interested in an interview to take stock of where we are in the pandemic—a look back at how far we've come and what could potentially lie ahead—as we head into another respiratory cold and flu season.

Although I have asked some questions at daily briefings, there are numerous other questions I've been wanting to ask her throughout the pandemic that I have never gotten around to (because there were so many other pressing issues).

Some of them are quite general, including how this pandemic compares to some of her previous experiences and what her assessment is of how people have reacted to various health measures.

If she is interested in an interview, I would be available next week.

The best times for me would be:
Monday afternoon (September 20)
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Thursday or Friday anytime (September 23 and 24)

I don't have a specific deadline yet so this is flexible, but it would be for an article we are hoping to put both in print and online.

COVID INTERVIEW REQ - VCH Dose 1 18-29 at 99%

Reporter

Matthew Mcfarlane, Producer
CBC - Vancouver
matthew.mcfarlane@cbc.ca
604-662-6396

Deadline ASAP

Request

Reporter would like to interview someone on the high uptake in this age cohort in VCH. We'd love to get someone on camera talking about what happened, why the uptick, when we saw the surge. Was it the vaccine card?

Background

This is a follow-up to a media request from September 22, 2021.

REQUEST:

Reporter is asking to confirm that this number on the BCCDC regional dashboard is correct: 99% of the 18-29yr old age group for Vancouver Coastal Health is vaccinated with the first dose of COVID-19 (as of Sept 20).

RESPONSE:

Provided Background
confirmed the data is accurate.

COVID Media Request: Recognition of mixed vaccines overseas

Reporter

Hop Phan, Host
Lac Viet Radio
phanvhop@gmail.com
604-518-5167

Deadline Monday, September 27, 2021 12:00 PM

Request

Lac Viet Radio requests a 30 min. live interview with MD regarding recognition of mixed vaccines in US and overseas. They hope that MD can answer some questions from their listeners as well.

Proposed date: Oct 2 (Sat)

Time: between 9:00 - 10:00am

Duration: 30 min.

Host: Hop will co-host the show with two other hostess, Tammy Dao and Stella

Format: Facebook live stream - MD can do the interview through phone or facebook

Questions:

1. As Canada and many countries are open for travel again, mixed vaccines are not recognized as full vaccination by some countries. How is BC Govt addressing this issue?
2. is the BC government considering offering 3rd dose of vaccine for those who got mix vaccines. I heard that some other provinces are doing this.

COVID Media Request: Vaccine Safety for teens

Reporter

Diane Strandberg, Reporter
Tri-City News
dstrandberg@tricitynews.com
604-472-3031 c: 604-368-0418

Deadline ASAP

Request

I have a concerned parent worried about vaccinating their 16-year-old because of reports of heart inflammation reported in teens. I have seen a number of media reports on this, including information that the CDC in the U.S. is investigating this.

(They are upset because the proof of vaccination requirement will deny their child entry into their city's weight lifting facility in Port Coquitlam.)

My questions are as follows:

What information can you provide this parent about the risk of this, and what the BC Ministry of Health knows about this and is recommending.

My deadline is as soon as possible as I'm hoping to post the story online today.

Recommendation

s.13

s.13

COVID Media Request: HCW Mandatory Vaccines

Reporter

Georgie Smyth, Producer
CBC - National
georgina.smyth@cbc.ca
604-662-6804 c: 778-697-9445

Deadline ASAP

Request

I was just after some clarification on the PHO from September 9 ordering people in healthcare to get vaccinated.

There seems to be a little bit of confusion about whether this order includes staff who work in communal care homes for disabled people? Also does it include people who might visit disabled people in their homes to provide care or company?

Recommendation

s.13

COVID Media Request: Deadnames

Reporter

Charlotte Alden, Editor
The Ubysey
c.alden@ubyssey.ca

Deadline ASAP

Request

The issue is that many trans people have names on their legal IDs that do not match the name they choose to go by in their everyday life. At UBC in specific, trans people can get their name changed on their UBC ID, but changing it on a document such as a BC Services Card is much more arduous.

The concern is that trans people are being forced to show strangers their ID every time they go into a non-essential business. Those IDs often have old names on there that trans people don't use, and are often associated with trauma for them. The question for you all is, how have you worked to prevent trans people from having to essentially out themselves to strangers every time they want to enter a non-essential business?

Recommendation

s.13

Background

This is a follow-up to a media request from September 22, 2021.

REQUEST:

My name is Charlotte Alden, an editor at UBC's student newspaper The Ubysey.

We've learned of some concerns from trans members of our community about the BC Vaccine Card. Currently, the process requires people to show their BC Vaccine Card, along with a piece of ID. Due to the

trickiness of changing one's legal name, many trans people have their deadnames on their IDs — meaning that under this current system, they're forced to reveal their deadname to strangers fairly often, something that is traumatizing for some of them.

I'm writing a story on this that I'm hoping to put out by next Tuesday. I'm writing to see if the Ministry has thought about this, or considered any alternatives to prevent this outing from happening to trans people in our community.

Happy to answer any questions you might have about this issue. I'm reachable at (301) 412-4899 and news@ubyssey.ca.

RESPONSE:

Provided Background

"I want to acknowledge that we've heard from British Columbians whose name on their BC Vaccine Cards did not match the name on their ID. We've worked over the last week to solve this. The BC Vaccine Card has been updated to ensure that the name that is displayed matches the name on your BC Services Card or combined driver's licence and BC Services Card."

If the name on your BC Vaccine Card currently does not match your BC Services Card or combined Driver's Licence/BC Services Card you can go to gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard for an updated vaccine card.

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COVID Media Request: COVID-19 Data

Reporter

Melissa Lopez-Martinez, Reporter
CTV - Vancouver
melissa.lopezmartinez@bellmedia.ca
647-786-3118

Deadline ASAP

Request

I was looking to get more data on the province's COVID-19 data, specifically hospitalization data and vaccinated cases.

On the COVID-19 dashboard I see there is data on those currently in critical care but is there somewhere to find the overall total of this number to date? Also where can the same data on the vaccinated/unvaccinated cases data be found, since the BCCDC data has only the data for specific time frames.

Lastly, where could I find the data on those vaccinated/unvaccinated that are hospitalized and/or in the ICU?

Recommendation

s.13

COVID Media Request: Anti-maskers, anti-vaxxers

Reporter

Alex McKeen, Reporter
The Star Vancouver
alex.mckeen@thestar.ca
604-209-2802

Deadline ASAP

Request

I'm wondering if you can help me with a bit of an unusual request. I'm writing a story about the group of people promoting what they call a COVID-Zero approach, and the ways in which this group is looking more and more like a movement in opposition to our public health leaders on COVID-19. No need to get too in the details on this one, but I'm wondering if you could put in a request for me to Dr. Bonnie Henry and perhaps a few other leaders like Minister Dix about how many of the complaint emails they get are from people who are against all restrictions, compared to people who want to see more restrictions. Exact numbers are not needed, but broad strokes would be great (one complaint about too many restrictions for every complaint about not enough? Overwhelming majority of one or the other?)

Recommendation

s.13

COVID Media Request: Contact tracing

Reporter

Brishti Basu, Reporter
Capital Daily
brishti@capitaldaily.ca
778-350-2238

Deadline ASAP

Request

Wondering as well if there is provincial policy on contact tracing for those with no fixed address.

Recommendation

s.13

COVID Media Request: Notifications for parents school exposures

Reporter

Katie Hyslop, Reporter
The Tyee
khyslop@thetyee.ca
778-887-3951

Deadline ASAP

Request

This does not seem to answer my question re: administrators telling parents not to communicate with the school community about their child's COVID diagnosis. As I mentioned I've heard from several parents in different health regions that their school principal has requested they not inform their child's teachers or other members of the school community of their child's COVID diagnosis. I understand that administrators are constrained in terms of who they are allowed to disclose the diagnoses to, but I'm wondering if principals are being required by the province to ask parents to stay quiet?

Recommendation

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REQUEST:

I'm currently working on a story about how contact tracing and parent notification currently works in B.C. schools. I realize this is set to change very soon as per Dr. Henry's announcement this morning, but my story will ideally be out before then.

In addition to looking for an overview, I have heard from three sources, all parents of school-aged children with COVID, who were told by their school principals to not discuss their child's COVID diagnosis with anyone in the school community. Wondering if preventing parents from sharing information about their own children is protocol?

Is the applicable minister available for a phone interview by 10 am on Thursday, Sept. 23?

RESPONSE:

Provided Background

As Dr. Henry said yesterday, she hopes to have these changes in place by the end of this week. We'll have more to share on what this system is going to look like in the coming days.

The Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools has information on current management of school exposures and notifications: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf

COVID: (Island Health) Unhoused COVID cases

Reporter

Brishti Basu
Capital Daily
brishti@capitaldaily.ca

Deadline – ASAP

Request

Is it true that island health has instructed Cool Aid Society and other organizations that run supportive housing facilities to not share this level of COVID case data with residents and staff who live and work at these facilities?

Also the document we have shows there are 10 unhoused people with no fixed address. Where are these people isolating? (Note: reporter has a Cool Aid document listing case counts at various sites around the city.)

Recommendation^{s.13}

s.13

COVID (VIHA): Unhoused COVID cases/high case counts

Reporter

Brishti Basu
Capital Daily
brishti@capitaldaily.ca

Deadline – ASAP

Request

Can you confirm that there've been upwards 240 COVID-19 cases among unhoused people or people residing in supportive housing in Victoria over the past 2 weeks?

Why are housing workers at supportive housing units prohibited from sharing their experiences with media?

The Island, along with Northern and Fraser Health regions, is still experiencing a rise in cases with no real plateau in sight. We've twice exceeded the previous daily case record during the third wave. Given that the Island is more heavily vaccinated than Northern health region, what is it that's driving cases here? Where and among who are there clusters on Vancouver Island?

Recommendations.13

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Background for MO

s.13

COVID: (VIHA) Alberni Valley COVID cases

Reporter

Susie Quinn
Alberni Valley News
editor@albernivalleynews.com
Phone: 778-421-8061

Deadline – ASAP

Request

I'm working on a story about the growing number of COVID-19 cases in the Alberni-Clayoquot region and wanted to know if there is any validity to the rumour that a number of these cases have been traced back to the Alberni District Fall Fair from Sept. 10-12, or if there are other events that had occurred in the LHA that are of concern.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

VIHA Media Request: alleged altercation at Royal Jubilee Hospital

Reporter

Moira Wyton, Reporter

The Tyee

mwyton@thetyee.ca

780-913-7089

Deadline Thursday, September 23, 2021 4:00 PM

Request

Reporter submitted these follow-up questions 7 weeks after receiving Island Health response (below in background) in August:

1. What kind of anti-racism or cultural safety training specific to Indigenous people is available for VIHA employees, and is any of it mandatory? I'm hoping to understand how many hours-long any trainings are, what they cover, and if there are any follow-ups with participants to quantify their impact? I am aware of the San'yas training program's details so if that is one of them no need to specify its qualities.
2. What percentage of currently-employed VIHA employees have completed at least some cultural safety training?
3. What training does Island Health require for security guards, and does it require a section on anti-Indigenous racism? If so, how many hours long is the training and the portion on racism?
4. Is there a critical incident reporting process for security uses of force, as there is for police? If so, what happens to a report after it is filed?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

Background

The following was provided to the reporter on August 5:

- Due to privacy laws and in support of Island Health's confidentiality policies, we cannot discuss or disclose specific details about individual patients or the care they receive.
- We take all care concerns extremely seriously and we follow up on every care concern we receive.
- Island Health is aware of this individual's concerns. Our Patient Care Quality Office has had ongoing communication with this individual for several weeks and those conversations will continue, so that we can better understand their experience, address their concerns and inform future care quality improvements.
- While we can't speak to specifics, in situations like this a patient presenting in the emergency department would be seen and assessed by a physician, who may consult a specialist for clinical support. The physician would then make a clinical decision on the most appropriate care plan for the patient, based on their condition and results of the assessment.
- It is important to note that the safety of our staff, patients, visitors and volunteers is a top priority for Island Health and there is a zero tolerance policy for abusive or aggressive behaviour towards anyone in our hospitals.
- Emergency departments are extremely busy care areas and to ensure staff are able to safely provide timely care to patients seeking emergency care, it is imperative that individuals who have been assessed as medically safe for discharge by a medical professional leave the area in a timely manner.
- In general, in situations where an individual's behaviour is impeding staff's ability to safely provide care to other patients with emergent health concerns, staff may seek support from Protection Services to take appropriate steps to ensure a safe environment for everyone involved.
- Island Health is committed to embedding cultural safety and humility in the delivery of health and care for Indigenous people.
- We are working in partnership with, and guided by, First Nations communities to implement the recommendations within the In Plain Sight report put forward by Mary-Ellen Turpel-Lafond, to ensure Indigenous peoples across the province have access to the safe care they deserve. We acknowledge that systemic Indigenous-specific racism exists, and while some steps have been taken to make healthcare safe and accessible, more needs to be done.
- Island Health is developing an Indigenous-specific action plan, created in partnership and guided by community, to take action to ensure safe access to care for Indigenous people, as well as supporting Indigenous staff within our health authority.

VIHA Media Request: Employer/employee issues at Port Alberni LTC sites

Reporter

Adam Van Der Zwan, Reporter
CBC - Victoria
adam.van.der.zwan@cbc.ca
250-414-4707 c: 778-877-5283

Deadline Thursday, September 23, 2021 12:00 PM

Request

I'm working on a story about residents and staff members who are very upset with the work conditions at Fir Park Village and Echo Village long term care homes in Port Alberni. Apparently the executive director bullies many of the workers, very short-staffed, and it's affecting the residents as well. The Hospital Employees Union tells me labour relations are terrible.

Has Island Health looked into this situation recently? How has it been trying to resolve the conflict?

Consideration: s.13

s.13

Recommendation s.13

s.13

NH Media Request: NH: ICU capacity

Reporter

Xiao Xu, Reporter

Globe and Mail - BC Bureau

XXu@globeandmail.com

604-631-6612 c: 778-668-3063

Deadline ASAP

Request

In follow up to interview with NH Northeast COO, reporter seeking the following:

-Among all 44 acute-care beds in Fort St. John Hospitals, how many are occupied now? (The ICU beds there are still closed at this moment right?)

-How many acute-care beds does NH have in total? How full are they? How about ICU beds?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

HLTH Media Request: Eagle Ridge News Release

Reporter

Diane Strandberg, Reporter
Tri-City News
dstrandberg@tricitynews.com
604-472-3031 c: 604-368-0418

Deadline Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:00 PM

Request

What will the public see from Phase 2 of the construction - will patients see things boarded up during construction or will they see different entrances or pathways for visiting during the construction?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

Updated - For approval: outstanding media requests

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants <hlthmaea@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 23, 2021 3:50:58 PM PDT
Attachments: DBH - Interview Requests.docx, Interview Requests.docx, Outstanding Media Requests Sept 23.docx

Hello again,
Sending along an updated rollup with a few new requests that came in this afternoon.

There's also a new interview request for RedFM on Monday evening. I've highlighted a somewhat urgent request from Global in the summary below regarding 9-1-1 wait times today.

Let me know if you would like to see changes.

Thanks!
Aileen

Media requests summary:

- NEW – COVID: Diane Strandberg, Tri-City News – Vaccine Safety for teens -- **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Georgie Smyth, CBC National – HCW Mandatory Vaccines – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Charlotte Alden, The Ubysey – Deadnames – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Melissa Lopez-Martinez, CTV – COVID-19 Data – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Alex McKeen, The Star – Anti-maskers, anti-vaxxers – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Brishti Basu, Capital Daily – Contact Tracing – **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Katie Hyslop, The Tyee – Notifications for parents school exposure - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID (VIHA): Brishti Basu, Capital Dily – Unhoused COVID cases **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID (VIHA): Brishti Basu, Capital Dily – Unhoused COVID cases/high case counts **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID (VIHA): Susie Quinn, Alberni Valley News – Alberni Valley COVID cases **Deadline** – ASAP
- NEW – VIHA: Moira Wyton, The Tyee – alleged altercation at Royal Jubilee Hospital - **Deadline** Thursday, September 23, 2021 4:00 PM
- REVISED – VIHA: Adam Van Der Zwan, CBC Victoria – employer/employee issues at Port Alberni LTC sites - **Deadline** Thursday, September 23, 2021 12:00 PM
- NEW – NH: Xiao Xu, Globe and Mail – ICU capacity - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – HLTH: Diane Strandberg, Tri-City News – Eagle Ridge News Release - **Deadline** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:00 PM
- NEW – VCH: Gordon McIntyre, Province – copper installations - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – Providence: Andrea Woo, Globe and Mail – Crosstown Carries Program and investigation of clinic by BC College of Pharmacists - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – PHSA: Ted Field, Global TV – call wait times today - **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Alex McKeen, The Star – Organ Donations – **Deadline**: ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Jamie Mauracher, Global – Monoclonal Antibody Treatment – **Deadline**: ASAP
- NEW – COVID (VIHA): Jane Seyd, North Shore News – Wait times at the ICBC testing clinic **Deadline** today
- NEW – COVID (VCH): Cameron Mitchell, CTV – Cases in St. George's School **Deadline** Today 6pm
- NEW – COVID (PHSA): Chen Wang, Globe and Mail – school exposure notifications **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID (VCH): Dan Fumano, Vancouver Sun – Closure of Gustos and Corduroy due to non-compliance with PHO Order **Deadline** Today 5pm

Minister and health authority interview requests:

- NEW – COVID: Matthew Mcfarlane, CBC Vancouver – interview re: VCH dose 1 18-29 at 99%
- NEW – COVID: Hop Phan, Lac Viet Radio – Facebook live stream interview with questions from callers re: recognition of mixed vaccines in US and overseas (Oct 2, between 9-10am, 30 mins)
- NEW – COVID: Harpreet Singh, Red FM Vaccine passport and international travellers and students

DBH Interviews:

- COVID: Craig Takeuchi, Georgia Straight – interview re: pandemic, cold and flu season (Sept 20-24)

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: September 23, 2021 1:55 PM
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants <hlthmaea@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Subject: For approval: outstanding media requests

Good afternoon Minister,
Please see the attached media responses for your approval, along with a few interview requests for consideration.

Let me know if you would like more information or edits for any of these.

Thanks and have a good rest of your day.
Aileen

Media requests summary:

- NEW – COVID: Diane Strandberg, Tri-City News – Vaccine Safety for teens -- **Deadline** ASAP
- NEW – COVID: Georgie Smyth, CBC National – HCW Mandatory Vaccines – **Deadline** ASAP
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Aileen Machell (she/her)
Communications Director
Health Communications
250-361-5381

COVID Media Request: Vaccine Safety for teens

Reporter

Diane Strandberg, Reporter
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604-472-3031 c: 604-368-0418

Deadline ASAP

Request

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(They are upset because the proof of vaccination requirement will deny their child entry into their city's weight lifting facility in Port Coquitlam.)

My questions are as follows:

What information can you provide this parent about the risk of this, and what the BC Ministry of Health knows about this and is recommending.

My deadline is as soon as possible as I'm hoping to post the story online today.

Recommendation

s.13

s.13

COVID Media Request: HCW Mandatory Vaccines

Reporter

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Background

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Capital Daily
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The Tyee
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As Dr. Henry said yesterday, she hopes to have these changes in place by the end of this week. We'll have more to share on what this system is going to look like in the coming days.

The Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools has information on current management of school exposures and notifications: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID_public_guidance/Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf

COVID: (Island Health) Unhoused COVID cases

Reporter

Brishti Basu
Capital Daily
brishti@capitaldaily.ca

Deadline – ASAP

Request

Is it true that island health has instructed Cool Aid Society and other organizations that run supportive housing facilities to not share this level of COVID case data with residents and staff who live and work at these facilities?

Also the document we have shows there are 10 unhoused people with no fixed address. Where are these people isolating? (Note: reporter has a Cool Aid document listing case counts at various sites around the city.)

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID (VIHA): Unhoused COVID cases/high case counts

Reporter

Brishti Basu
Capital Daily
brishti@capitaldaily.ca

Deadline – ASAP

Request

Can you confirm that there've been upwards 240 COVID-19 cases among unhoused people or people residing in supportive housing in Victoria over the past 2 weeks?

Why are housing workers at supportive housing units prohibited from sharing their experiences with media?

The Island, along with Northern and Fraser Health regions, is still experiencing a rise in cases with no real plateau in sight. We've twice exceeded the previous daily case record during the third wave. Given that the Island is more heavily vaccinated than Northern health region, what is it that's driving cases here? Where and among who are there clusters on Vancouver Island?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

s.13

Background for MO

s.13

COVID: (VIHA) Alberni Valley COVID cases

Reporter

Susie Quinn
Alberni Valley News
editor@albernivalleynews.com
Phone: 778-421-8061

Deadline – ASAP

Request

I'm working on a story about the growing number of COVID-19 cases in the Alberni-Clayoquot region and wanted to know if there is any validity to the rumour that a number of these cases have been traced back to the Alberni District Fall Fair from Sept. 10-12, or if there are other events that had occurred in the LHA that are of concern.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

VIHA Media Request: alleged altercation at Royal Jubilee Hospital

Reporter

Moira Wyton, Reporter
The Tyee
mwyton@thetyee.ca
780-913-7089

Deadline Thursday, September 23, 2021 4:00 PM

Request

Reporter submitted these follow-up questions 7 weeks after receiving Island Health response (below in background) in August:

1. What kind of anti-racism or cultural safety training specific to Indigenous people is available for VIHA employees, and is any of it mandatory? I'm hoping to understand how many hours-long any trainings are, what they cover, and if there are any follow-ups with participants to quantify their impact? I am aware of the San'yas training program's details so if that is one of them no need to specify its qualities.
2. What percentage of currently-employed VIHA employees have completed at least some cultural safety training?
3. What training does Island Health require for security guards, and does it require a section on anti-Indigenous racism? If so, how many hours long is the training and the portion on racism?
4. Is there a critical incident reporting process for security uses of force, as there is for police? If so, what happens to a report after it is filed?

Recommendations.¹³

s.13

Background

The following was provided to the reporter on August 5:

- Due to privacy laws and in support of Island Health's confidentiality policies, we cannot discuss or disclose specific details about individual patients or the care they receive.
- We take all care concerns extremely seriously and we follow up on every care concern we receive.
- Island Health is aware of this individual's concerns. Our Patient Care Quality Office has had ongoing communication with this individual for several weeks and those conversations will continue, so that we can better understand their experience, address their concerns and inform future care quality improvements.
- While we can't speak to specifics, in situations like this a patient presenting in the emergency department would be seen and assessed by a physician, who may consult a specialist for clinical support. The physician would then make a clinical decision on the most appropriate care plan for the patient, based on their condition and results of the assessment.
- It is important to note that the safety of our staff, patients, visitors and volunteers is a top priority for Island Health and there is a zero tolerance policy for abusive or aggressive behaviour towards anyone in our hospitals.
- Emergency departments are extremely busy care areas and to ensure staff are able to safely provide timely care to patients seeking emergency care, it is imperative that individuals who have been assessed as medically safe for discharge by a medical professional leave the area in a timely manner.
- In general, in situations where an individual's behaviour is impeding staff's ability to safely provide care to other patients with emergent health concerns, staff may seek support from Protection Services to take appropriate steps to ensure a safe environment for everyone involved.
- Island Health is committed to embedding cultural safety and humility in the delivery of health and care for Indigenous people.
- We are working in partnership with, and guided by, First Nations communities to implement the recommendations within the In Plain Sight report put forward by Mary-Ellen Turpel-Lafond, to ensure Indigenous peoples across the province have access to the safe care they deserve. We acknowledge that systemic Indigenous-specific racism exists, and while some steps have been taken to make healthcare safe and accessible, more needs to be done.
- Island Health is developing an Indigenous-specific action plan, created in partnership and guided by community, to take action to ensure safe access to care for Indigenous people, as well as supporting Indigenous staff within our health authority.

VIHA Media Request: Employer/employee issues at Port Alberni LTC sites

Reporter

Adam Van Der Zwan, Reporter
CBC - Victoria
adam.van.der.zwan@cbc.ca
250-414-4707 c: 778-877-5283

Deadline Thursday, September 23, 2021 12:00 PM

Request

I'm working on a story about residents and staff members who are very upset with the work conditions at Fir Park Village and Echo Village long term care homes in Port Alberni. Apparently the executive director bullies many of the workers, very short-staffed, and it's affecting the residents as well. The Hospital Employees Union tells me labour relations are terrible.

Has Island Health looked into this situation recently? How has it been trying to resolve the conflict?

Consideration: s.13

s.13

Recommendation s.13

s.13

NH Media Request: NH: ICU capacity

Reporter

Xiao Xu, Reporter
Globe and Mail - BC Bureau
XXu@globeandmail.com
604-631-6612 c: 778-668-3063

Deadline ASAP

Request

In follow up to interview with NH Northeast COO, reporter seeking the following:

-Among all 44 acute-care beds in Fort St. John Hospitals, how many are occupied now? (The ICU beds there are still closed at this moment right?)

-How many acute-care beds does NH have in total? How full are they? How about ICU beds?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

HLTH Media Request: Eagle Ridge News Release

Reporter

Diane Strandberg, Reporter
Tri-City News
dstrandberg@tricitynews.com
604-472-3031 c: 604-368-0418

Deadline Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:00 PM

Request

What will the public see from Phase 2 of the construction - will patients see things boarded up during construction or will they see different entrances or pathways for visiting during the construction?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

VCH Media Request: copper installations

Reporter

Gordon McIntyre, Reporter

Province

gordmcintyre@postmedia.com

604-605-2292 c: 604-802-4949

Deadline ASAP

Request

Translink, Teck and VCH kicked off the second phase of a copper trial for the metal's effective anti-bacterial and anti-viral qualities in public transit.

Is this something Vancouver Coastal Health is considering for high-touch surfaces (door knobs, light switches, etc) in hospitals?

I've been assigned a story on some of the permanent changes COVID-19 has sparked and wondered if we might see copper again in hospitals, replacing plastic high-touch surfaces.

Considerations

s.13

Recommendation s.13

s.13

Providence Media Request: Crosstown Carries Program and investigation of clinic by BC College of Pharmacists

Reporter

Andrea Woo, Reporter
Globe and Mail - BC Bureau
andreawoo@globeandmail.com
604-631-6602 c: 604-379-8133

Deadline ASAP

Request

Would like a comment from Providence regarding cessation of “carries” program offered at Crosstown Clinic in Vancouver’s DTES.

Considerations

s.13

s.13

Recommendation s.13

s.13

PHSA Media Request: call wait times today

Reporter

Ted Field, Assignment Editor
Global TV | BC
ted.field@globalnews.ca
604-837-3136 c: 778-945-9079

Deadline ASAP

Request

"We are hearing there are long ambulance wait time issues in Vancouver today and understand there is a queuing of code three calls."

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID Media Request: Organ Donations

Reporter

Alex McKeen, Reporter
The Star Vancouver
alex.mckeen@thestar.ca
604-209-2802

Deadline ASAP

Request

We've heard Sask. Is suspending organ donations because of COVID-19. Is this happening in B.C., or has it been considered?

<https://twitter.com/zakvescera/status/1441097595900756132>

Recommendation

s.13

COVID Media Request: Monoclonal Antibody Treatment

Reporter

Jamie Mauracher, Reporter

Global - Toronto

Jamie.Mauracher@globalnews.ca>

416-998-1308

Deadline ASAP

Request

Global News is looking into the availability of monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID in Canada.

It's approved in Canada but specialists are saying it's not widely available. Can you provide details on its availability in BC.

Is it being provided anywhere for clinical use- either for mild or severe COVID?

Recommendation

s.13

COVID (VIHA): Wait times at the ICBC testing clinic

Reporter

Jane Seyd

North Shore News

jseyd@nsnews.com

Deadline – today

Request

Just to follow up, can you tell me if the North Shore ICBC testing centre had a lot more people than usual requesting COVID tests at the beginning of the week? (Especially on Monday)? Can you tell me if the staffing inside the clinic has been recently reduced (because even if hours are the same if there is 50 per cent of the previous staff working I can see how that would account for long lines)? Do you know what the situation is now?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID-19 (VCH): Cases in St. George's School

Reporter

Cameron Mitchell

CTV

cameron.mitchell@bellmedia.ca

Deadline – Today 6pm

Request

Regan from CTV Vancouver here. We're hearing reports about a cluster of cases of COVID-19 at St. George's School. Is anyone at VCH able to confirm this? How many cases are there? How many schools in the health region have clusters or outbreaks right now?

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID (PHSA): school exposure notifications

Reporter

Chen Wang
Globe & Mail

Deadline – ASAP

Request

Reporter is not able to find provincial school-related COVID-19 case numbers online, would like to know where to find this information.

Suggested action: s.13

Recommendation s.13

s.13

COVID (VCH): Closures of Gustos and Corduroy due to non-compliance with PHO order.

Reporter

Dan Fumano
Vancouver Sun
dfumano@postmedia.com

Deadline – Today 5pm

Request - Looking for information on businesses (specifically Gustos and Corduroy) that may have been closed due to non-compliance with recent proof of vaccination PHO order.

Recommendation s.13

s.13

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