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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

INFORMATION BULLETIN

[release number]
Sept. 23, 2021

Ministry of Health

How B.C. counts its daily COVID-19 cases in hospitals

VICTORIA – All COVID-19 patients in B.C. who require any form of hospital care are counted as one case in daily totals when they first enter a facility. These individuals continue to be included in this count for the duration of the time they remain actively infectious.

Once a patient in critical care is no longer actively infectious with COVID-19, the patient is removed from daily critical-care totals. That said, for planning purposes, these patients are still included in the overall COVID-19 counts for the hospital.

For some of these patients, COVID-19 can trigger difficulties with other health conditions. These patients may require longer periods of hospitalization but for reasons that are no longer directly tied COVID-19. This means that some patients who entered hospital or critical care as a COVID-19 patient may no longer be counted as COVID-19 patients once they are no longer infectious, even though they remain in hospital.

As of September 21, there were 152 of these patients in B.C. hospitals. Within hospital record-keeping, the term for such an occurrence is “discontinued isolation.”

“Discontinued isolation” reporting is anchored in B.C.’s public health guidelines. For most cases, isolation is discontinued after ten days — provided there is no fever and that symptoms are improving. These same requirements are in effect in Ontario, Alberta, and the US CDC. In B.C., for serious cases, the guideline is 20 days. That 20-day guideline varies according to each patient’s unique circumstances and is, for this reason, a clinical decision.

These discontinued isolation cases are reported on independently from B.C.’s COVID numbers. They are included in reports on overall hospital capacity and critical-care capacity. These cases do not directly contribute to the epidemiological picture of the pandemic, but importantly, make a significant contribution to public awareness and understanding of hospitals’ readiness to provide care.

The Ministry of Health looks at hospitalizations and critical-care beds to ensure the sustainability of the system. We look at those numbers in the context of the overall capacity; to ensure the system is running efficiently at or near capacity but not over capacity. We frequently provide information on hospital and critical-care capacity to the media and the public.

The BCCDC surveillance reports and the daily numbers we report have a different function. They report the number of people with covid who require hospital or critical care. This gives us an understanding of the severity of illness and only counts the individual once even if they are

hospitalized more than once or have several stays in critical care. These data help us determine for example, if the Delta variant causes increased rates of hospitalization or leads to more people needing critical care. This information helps us understand the impact of the pandemic on the population (for example what percent of people with COVID-19 require hospital care) and plan public health measures.

Contact:

Ministry of Health

Communications

250 952-1887 (media line)

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Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

Godfrey, Sonora HLTH:EX

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: September 23, 2021 4:45 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX; Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX
Cc: Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN
Subject: RE: Revised statement for approval

Ok I will run this by the MO. Thanks!

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 23, 2021 4:44 PM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX <Martin.P.Wright@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>
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*Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
s.15; s.19*

*Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC*

V8W 9P4

Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca

Phone: s.17; s.19

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

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

Sent: September 23, 2021 4:32 PM

To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX <Martin.P.Wright@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>

Subject: Revised statement for approval

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Let me know if that works.

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

Godfrey, Sonora HLTH:EX

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: September 23, 2021 5:00 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX; Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX
Cc: Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN; van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX
Subject: RE: Revised statement for approval
Attachments: IB_COVID Hospitalizations Explainer_Sep 23 5pm.docx

Hello,
The joint statement is attached. Let me know if this is ordered the way you want. The MO is ok with your addition. Once you've reviewed we will send to the editors.

Thanks!
Aileen

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 23, 2021 4:44 PM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX <Martin.P.Wright@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>
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Dr Bonnie Henry

Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
s.15; s.19

Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9P4
Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca

Phone: s.17; s.19

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To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX <Martin.P.Wright@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>
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Aileen Machell (she/her)
Communications Director
Health Communications
250-361-5381

Godfrey, Sonora HLTH:EX

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Sent: September 24, 2021 2:00 PM
To: Cen, Calvin GCPE:EX; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX
Cc: hlth Ministerial and Executive Assistants; Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Subject: RE: For Minister/PHO Review/Approval: Daily IB

Looks good.

*Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health*

s.15; s.19

*Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9P4
Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca*

Phone: s.17; s.19

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From: Cen, Calvin GCPE:EX <Calvin.Cen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 24, 2021 1:39 PM
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: 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>
Subject: For Minister/PHO Review/Approval: Daily IB

Good afternoon Minister & Dr. Henry,

Attached is today's info bulletin for your review ahead of 2pm publishing.

We've added a link to the hospitalizations explainer:

To learn about how B.C. counts its daily COVID-19 cases in hospitals, visit:
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0058-001844>

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

Godfrey, Sonora HLTH:EX

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Sent: September 24, 2021 8:27 AM
To: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX
Cc: Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX; Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX; MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN
Subject: RE: Final statement - hospitalization data
Attachments: IB_COVID Hospitalizations Explainer_Sep 23 525pm.docx

What about this? Is that more clear?

*Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
s.15; s.19*

*Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9P4
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From: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 24, 2021 8:24 AM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX <Martin.P.Wright@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>
Subject: RE: Final statement - hospitalization data

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 24, 2021 8:11 AM
To: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX <Martin.P.Wright@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>
Subject: RE: Final statement - hospitalization data

It is a very real thing. People contract covid while in hospital and stay in hospital even when they recover from covid. That is quite a few of the number right now.
b

*Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
s.15; s.19*

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From: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 24, 2021 8:10 AM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX <Martin.P.Wright@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts,

Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>

Subject: RE: Final statement - hospitalization data

s.13

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

Sent: September 24, 2021 7:57 AM

To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX <Martin.P.Wright@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>

Subject: RE: Final statement - hospitalization data

Sorry one more small clarification in yellow.

b

*Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
s.15; s.19*

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

Sent: September 24, 2021 7:36 AM

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

Cc: Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX <Martin.P.Wright@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; van Baarsen,

Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>

Subject: Final statement - hospitalization data

Good morning,

Just a reminder that this joint statement will be going first thing this morning ^{s.13}

Let me know if you have any concerns, otherwise editors will aim for distribution by 9 or so.

Thanks!

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

Godfrey, Sonora HLTH:EX

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX
Sent: September 24, 2021 8:37 AM
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX; van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Cc: Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX; Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX; MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN
Subject: Final bulletin - hospitalization data
Attachments: IB_COVID Hospitalizations Explainer_Sep 24 FINAL.docx

Ok, thank you for the edits Dr. Henry.

Here is the final information bulletin.

This will go at 10 am as Minister requested.

Thanks,
Aileen

From: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 24, 2021 8:31 AM
To: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX <Martin.P.Wright@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>
Subject: Re: Final statement - hospitalization data

10 am

From: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 8:30:22 AM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX
Cc: Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX; Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX; MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola

GCPE:IN

Subject: RE: Final statement - hospitalization data

Ok. If there is confusion we can clarify in response to media. I'm good with this going out at 9am

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

Sent: September 24, 2021 8:29 AM

To: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX <Martin.P.Wright@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>

Subject: RE: Final statement - hospitalization data

Yes, in an outbreak all cases are counted in the daily numbers.

*Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
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s.15; s.19*

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Sent: September 24, 2021 8:28 AM

To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>

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Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>

Subject: RE: Final statement - hospitalization data

I think so. Are these people added to daily covid counts?

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

Sent: September 24, 2021 8:27 AM

To: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX <Martin.P.Wright@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>

Subject: RE: Final statement - hospitalization data

What about this? Is that more clear?

*Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
s.15; s.19*

*Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9P4
Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca*

Phone: s.17; s.19

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

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From: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: September 24, 2021 8:24 AM

To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX <Martin.P.Wright@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts,

Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>

Subject: RE: Final statement - hospitalization data

s.13

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

Sent: September 24, 2021 8:11 AM

To: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX <Martin.P.Wright@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>

Subject: RE: Final statement - hospitalization data

It is a very real thing. People contract covid while in hospital and stay in hospital even when they recover from covid. That is quite a few of the number right now.

b

*Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health*

s.15; s.19

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From: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: September 24, 2021 8:10 AM

To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX <Martin.P.Wright@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>
Subject: RE: Final statement - hospitalization data

s.13

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 24, 2021 7:57 AM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX <Martin.P.Wright@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>
Subject: RE: Final statement - hospitalization data

Sorry one more small clarification in yellow.
b

*Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health*

s.15; s.19

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From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 24, 2021 7:36 AM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX <Martin.P.Wright@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>

Subject: Final statement - hospitalization data

Good morning,

Just a reminder that this joint statement will be going first thing this morning s.13

Let me know if you have any concerns, otherwise editors will aim for distribution by 9 or so.

Thanks!

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

Godfrey, Sonora HLTH:EX

From: Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX
Sent: September 23, 2021 5:31 PM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX; Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX
Cc: Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN; van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX
Subject: FOR APPROVAL -Revised statement
Attachments: IB_COVID Hospitalizations Explainer_Sep 23 525pm.docx

Hi everyone,

s.13

Thanks very much



Jeffrey Ferrier (he/him/his)
Executive Director, Health Communications, Government of British Columbia
604-362-6109 | jeffrey.ferrier@gov.bc.ca

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

From: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 23, 2021 5:16 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX <Martin.P.Wright@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>; van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Revised statement for approval

s.13

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

On Sep 23, 2021, at 4:59 PM, Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hello,

The joint statement is attached. Let me know if this is ordered the way you want. The MO is ok with your addition. Once you've reviewed we will send to the editors.

Thanks!

Aileen

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

Sent: September 23, 2021 4:44 PM

To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX <Martin.P.Wright@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>

Subject: RE: Revised statement for approval

I like that but do we want just one sentence saying this is different from the epidemiologic reports (BCCDC surveillance reports) which count how many people with covid have severe illness and need to be hospitalized:

The BCCDC surveillance reports and the daily numbers we report have a different function. They report the number of people with covid who require hospital or critical care. This gives us an understanding of the severity of illness and only counts the individual once even if they are hospitalized more than once or have several stays in critical care. These data help us determine for example, if the Delta variant causes increased rates of hospitalization or leads to more people needing critical care. This information helps us understand the impact of the pandemic on the population (for example what percent of people with COVID-19 require hospital care) and plan public health measures.

*Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
s.15; s.19*

Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9P4
Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca

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

Sent: September 23, 2021 4:32 PM

To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX <Martin.P.Wright@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX <Leah.Holoiday@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>

Subject: Revised statement for approval

Minister likes this shortened version. If you are ok with it, we could provide it as a joint statement from you (Dr. Henry), and the Minister.

Let me know if that works.

Thanks!

How B.C. counts its daily COVID-19 cases in hospitals.

All COVID-19 patients in B.C. who require *any* form of hospital care are counted as one case in daily totals when they first enter a facility. These individuals continue to be included in this count for the duration of the time they remain actively infectious.

Once a patient in critical care is no longer actively infectious with COVID-19, the patient is removed from daily critical-care totals. That said, for planning purposes, these patients are still included in the overall COVID-19 counts for the hospital.

For some of these patients, COVID-19 can trigger difficulties with other health conditions. These patients may require longer periods of hospitalization but for reasons that are no longer directly tied COVID-19. This means that some patients who entered hospital or critical care as a COVID-19 patient may no longer be counted as COVID-19 patients once they are no longer infectious, even though they remain in hospital.

As of September 21, there were 152 of these patients in B.C. hospitals. Within hospital record-keeping, the term for such an occurrence is “discontinued isolation.”

“Discontinued isolation” reporting is anchored in B.C.’s public health guidelines. For most cases, isolation is discontinued after ten days — provided there is no fever and that symptoms are improving. These same requirements are in effect in Ontario, Alberta, and the US CDC. In B.C., for serious cases, the guideline is 20 days. That 20-day guideline varies according to each patient’s unique circumstances and is, for this reason, a clinical decision.

These discontinued isolation cases are reported on independently from B.C.’s COVID numbers. They are included in reports on overall hospital capacity and critical-care capacity. These cases do not directly contribute to the epidemiological picture of the pandemic, but importantly, make a significant contribution to public awareness and understanding of hospitals’ readiness to provide care.

The Ministry of Health looks at hospitalizations and critical-care beds to ensure the sustainability of the system. We look at those numbers in the context of the overall capacity; to ensure the system is running efficiently at or near capacity but not over capacity. We frequently provide information on hospital and critical-care capacity to the media and the public.

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

<IB_COVID Hospitalizations Explainer_Sep 23 5pm.docx>

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Sent: September 24, 2021 7:57 AM
To: Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX
Cc: Wright, Martin P HLTH:EX; Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX; Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX; Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX; MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX; van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN
Subject: RE: Final statement - hospitalization data
Attachments: IB_COVID Hospitalizations Explainer_Sep 23 525pm.docx

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Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
s.15; s.19

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Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>; XT:Lambrechts, Nicola GCPE:IN <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>

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