

For Immediate Release:

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Outdoor Assessment Centre: New option for in-person patient care in Penticton

Starting Monday, March 30th, local family physicians and nurse practitioners are adding a new option for patients who need in-person appointments with a care provider. These patients can be seen, by appointment only, at a new outdoor assessment centre in Penticton.

This Centre at McLaren Park Arena parking lot is not a COVID-19 testing site. Rather, it is an opportunity for a physician or nurse practitioner to determine a patient's immediate care needs, while ensuring that as a community we work to reduce potential spread of COVID-19.

How it works: A patient calls their family medicine clinic or walk-in clinic. If their needs can be met with a video or phone appointment with their regular provider, that will be booked.

If a face-to-face appointment is required, the clinic will then schedule an appointment for the patient to see a nurse practitioner or family doctor at the Assessment Centre. Instructions from the clinic and signage at the site will easily guide the patient through the experience.

Outdoor assessments centres are currently being successfully operated in other locations such as Kelowna. By-appointment assessments ensure that patients needing care are being seen, and allows the Centre to space out patient appointments -- in a manner that allows for proper social distancing.

"I'm seeing patients by phone and by video, but this Centre gives us a good option for those who need an in-person visit with a primary care provider," says Dr. Greg Selinger, SOS Division of Family Practice Board Chair. "It's safer for us and, importantly, a safer environment for patients."

The Assessment Centre is operated by the SOS Division of Family Practice, aligns with Interior Health's care response, and is supported by the City of Penticton. "During a time when COVID-19 is creating considerable concern for the health and wellbeing of our residents, the creation of an appointment assessment centre here in Penticton by local family physicians and nurse practitioners will provide further assurance that additional supports are available for those that need them," says Penticton Mayor, John Vassilaki.

**Please note that community COVID-19 testing is being done by referral only at the Public Health Centre.*

==30==

For more information:

Heather Allen, SOS Division of Family Practice Communications Lead

heather.allen@sosdivision.ca