March 30, 2020

Dear Community Family Physicians,

The Ministry of Health, Health Authorities and the Doctors of BC are grateful for all you are doing to help manage the evolving COVID19 crisis in our communities and hospitals.

Since it is anticipated that the burden of caring for COVID19 patients will increase while our other non-COVID19 patients continue to need care for their acute and chronic conditions,

the Ministry and Health Authorities are seeking to develop a roster of doctors who are willing to be redeployed to situations that could be different or beyond their usual scope of practice. This may or may not involve care to COVID19 patients and could include in-patient, long term care, or community settings such as covering for hospitalist shifts, providing enhanced care for ill patients in long term care, or working in community urgent primary and community care centres or outpatient triage and patient clinics.

Please note that physicians will need to be credentialed through the health authority in order to be eligible for redeployment. The College of Physicians and Surgeons has stated that they understand the potential need for someone to be working in what might not be their usual scope of practice. Their bylaw on that matter is being waived for Health Authority privileged physicians for the duration of this crisis and attached is the college communication. CMPA is also recognizing the emergency nature of this crisis and their website also has relevant information [here](https://www.cmpa-acpm.ca/en/news/2020/2020-covid-19-cmpa-protection).

The relevant contact information for the Health Authorities is as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Health Authority** | **Contact person** | **Email** | **Phone** |
| VIHA | Dr. Erdem Yazganoglu  | Ihsan.Yazganoglu@VIHA.CA | 250-216-1119 |
| IHA | Dr. Harsh Hundal  | Harsh.Hundal@interiorhealth.ca | 250-718-2517 |
| VCH | Wendy Lo | wendy.lo@vch.ca | 604-875-4864 |
| NHA | Dr. Becky Temple  | Becky.Temple@northernhealth.ca | 250-262-5508 |
| FHA | Tim O’Brien | Timothy.obrien@fraserhealth.ca | 604-897-4043 |
|  |  |  |  |
| Providence Health | Dr Janet Kow  | jkow@providencehealth.bc.ca | 604-736-2715 |
| PHSA | Claire Brown | cbrown5@phsa.ca | 604-313-3259 |

There are some issues that remain unresolved such as the approach to payment for this work.

Doctors of BC the Ministry of Health and the Health Authorities and the Ministry are working to address this, and information should be available by the end of this week regarding simplified contracts for this work.

Thanks for your efforts in supporting your colleagues, your community and hospital, the health authority, and most of all the patients, in this trying time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brenda Hefford

Vice President, Physician Affairs and Community Practice

Doctors of BC