

For FOI request: FW: Heat wave deaths

From: Lapointe, Lisa PSSG:EX <Lisa.Lapointe@gov.bc.ca>
To: Sidhu, Tej PSSG:EX <Tej.Sidhu@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 3, 2021 at 2:21:28 PM Pacific Daylight Time

-----Original Message-----

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, July 1, 2021 9:45 AM
To: Lapointe, Lisa PSSG:EX <Lisa.Lapointe@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Baidwan, Jatinder PSSG:EX <Jatinder.Baidwan@gov.bc.ca>; Sidhu, Tej PSSG:EX <Tej.Sidhu@gov.bc.ca>; Gustafson, Reka HLTH:IN <reka.gustafson@phsa.ca>; XT:Henderson, Sarah ENV:IN <Sarah.Henderson@bccdc.ca>; Thompson, Laurel HLTH:EX <Laurel.Thompson@gov.bc.ca>; XT:HLTH Kosatsky, Tom <tom.kosatsky@bccdc.ca>
Subject: Re: Heat wave deaths

Yes, we have some preliminary ED data as well. I have copied Reka, Tom and Sarah from the BCCDC who we should include as well. And Laurel to help us set up a call.

Hope you have a quiet day as well.

B

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

On Jul 1, 2021, at 9:25 AM, Lapointe, Lisa PSSG:EX <Lisa.Lapointe@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Bonnie, thanks for your note. The number of people severely or fatally impacted by the heat was completely unexpected and we're keen to identify patterns and risk factors to support future responses and prevent similar outcomes.

Partnering for a fulsome review will be valuable. We're continuing to assess the full impact of the heatwave with reports of associated deaths still coming in and the coroners catching up with entering information into our system.

I've cc'd Taj and Tej on this note. Let's meet for a call next week and discuss first steps in planning for a review. We may want to consider a staged approach so that we can provide as much preliminary information as possible while we do a more detailed analysis.

Thanks for reaching out Bonnie. I look forward to getting together next week.

I hope you can enjoy some rest time today.

Lisa

Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 1, 2021, at 8:51 AM, Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Lisa,

I am reaching out around the need for us to do a review of the heat related deaths over this past weekend. As you are

likely aware we have a process and a plan for public health working with municipalities to put in place measures including distributing water, checking on vulnerable and opening cooling centres etc. We also have a ongoing surveillance system for heat related and air quality wildfire smoke related health effects. We had set up our provincial heat response committee on Friday to get things in place but the sheer numbers of people affected was a surprise.

We would like to do a full review including understanding the epidemiology of the illness and deaths so we can better target response for the future. I know you will be doing a full review as well. Could we partner on this and combine our resources to get a fuller picture and hopefully a stronger plan for the inevitable future heat events.

My best,
Bonnie

Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Ministry of Health
Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca

s.17; s.19

For FOI request: FW: Heat-related deaths meeting

From: Lapointe, Lisa PSSG:EX <Lisa.Lapointe@gov.bc.ca>
To: Sidhu, Tej PSSG:EX <Tej.Sidhu@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 3, 2021 at 2:21:28 PM Pacific Daylight Time
Attachments: image001.jpg, image002.png

From: Lapointe, Lisa PSSG:EX
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 11:53 AM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Heat-related deaths meeting

Thanks Bonnie. It would be great to align our investigations with the established assessment framework to ensure information-gathering is consistent. Please do have Sarah join us. If Taj is available, I'll ask him to join as well. At this point, we've estimated 540 deaths related to the heat, which is consistent with the significant increase in reporting from the same period in previous years.

I completely agree that it's important that we all provide as much information as possible, as quickly as possible, about the deaths to support informed response to any extreme heat episodes that may occur.

I look forward to speaking with you this afternoon.

Lisa

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 10:40 AM
To: Lapointe, Lisa PSSG:EX <Lisa.Lapointe@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Heat-related deaths meeting

We should definitely talk. We (BCCDC) have an established assessment framework we have used for heat related events in the past using data we receive through vital stats as well as ED data etc. that we are analysing right now. I want you to be aware of this as some will overlap with the detail review of deaths you are doing. It might be helpful if Sarah Henderson at least joins us so you have a sense of what we are doing. I wasn't so much suggesting we assist your team but rather that we align the work we are both doing to get a more fulsome picture of the health impacts (not solely deaths). We will be trying to put in place some more measures as soon as we can based on preliminary data on neighbourhoods and dwellings etc. to support response to heat waves in the coming weeks.

Let me know what works for you. I can forward you the preliminary data and you and I can discuss if that is best for you.

Bonnie

Dr Bonnie Henry

Provincial Health Officer

Office of the PHO

Ministry of Health

4th floor, 1515 Blanshard St

Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT

Victoria, BC

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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: Lapointe, Lisa PSSG:EX <Lisa.Lapointe@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 13, 2021 12:57 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Heat-related deaths meeting

Hi Bonnie,

In discussion with my team this morning, it was suggested that we postpone the meeting with your team scheduled for this afternoon. At this very early stage, we're continuing to triage the death reports from the last two weeks and assessing the role of the extreme heat for each, based on criteria established by Drs. Baidwan and White and our forensic pathology team. We've also started formulating a list of the data variables the coroners will gather for each death deemed heat-related, in addition to our routine death protocol information.

We're very appreciative of your offer to support the coroners' investigations and the aggregate review that will follow, and believe that a conversation with your team in about six weeks would be an optimal time to discuss how your office can assist.

In the meantime, I do think it would be helpful for you and I to meet as planned,^{s.13}

s.13

s.13 Please let me know if you'd like to do that tomorrow, or we can reschedule to another time.

Many thanks,

Lisa

Lisa Lapointe

Chief Coroner, British Columbia Coroners Service

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

5th floor, 910 Government Street

Victoria, BC V8W 1X3

778-974-5110

I acknowledge with gratitude that I work on the traditional territories of the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations

lisa.lapointe@gov.bc.ca

<http://www.gov.bc.ca/coroners>



Coroners Service
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General



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RE: Call for Records OCC-2021-13845 - Chris Hodgson

From: BCCS FOI Inbox PSSG:EX <BCCSFOI.Inbox@gov.bc.ca>
To: IAO Flex Team CITZ:EX <IAOFlexTeam@gov.bc.ca>, BCCS FOI Inbox PSSG:EX <BCCSFOI.Inbox@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 20, 2021 at 4:52:04 PM Pacific Daylight Time
Attachments: For FOI request: FW: Heat-related deaths meeting, In response to FOI request: BCCDC Preliminary Report on Extreme Hot Weather Event, For FOI request: FW: Heat wave deaths

Chris,
Please find attached the relevant records,
Tej.

From: IAOFlexTeam@gov.bc.ca <IAOFlexTeam@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Friday, September 3, 2021 9:56 AM
To: BCCS FOI Inbox PSSG:EX <BCCSFOI.Inbox@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Sidhu, Tej PSSG:EX <Tej.Sidhu@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Call for Records OCC-2021-13845 - Chris Hodgson
Request for Documents for Request # 'OCC-2021-13845'. Your response due date is: 9/20/2021 12:00:00 AM
Message from SENDER:

Please see details below regarding this formal request made under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (FOIPPA):

All communications to and from Premier John Horgan, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General Mike Farnworth, Health Minister Adrian Dix, Provincial Health Officer Bonnie Henry, Chief Coroner Lisa Lapointe, BC Wildfire Service Director of Provincial Operations Cliff Chapman, and Emergency Management BC executive director of regional operations Pader Brach that contain any reference, directly or indirectly to the B.C. heat wave. This includes but is not limited to email correspondence, text messages and briefing notes that reference the heat wave, preparation plans, discussion, outcomes, etc. (Date Range for Record Search: From 6/21/2021 To 7/9/2021) Date Format is MM/DD/YYYY

Applicant Type: Media
Cross Government Number: n/a
Associated requests: HTH-2021-13216
OOP-2021-13217
PSS-2021-13218
EMB-2021-13846
FNR-2021-13916
Notes for Search: n/a
Records Due: September 20, 2021
Legislated Due Date: October 18, 2021

Please email Chris Hodgson at IAOFlexTeam@gov.bc.ca for all questions regarding clarification, deadlines, routinely releasable records, or publicly available records.

Routine Release

Information that can be provided to the applicant without the need for an FOI request under FOIPPA can be "routinely released". If the Ministry deems these records routinely releasable, please respond to this CFR as soon as possible with responsive records, or with the contact information of the individual who will facilitate access. IAO will release the records and/or the contact information of the individual who will facilitate access and close the request. Please contact IAO for advice regarding making this determination.

Please note: If the request description excludes all email attachments, IAO will exclude all email attachments from the compiled records package. If the Ministry determines that there are particular email attachments that should be included in the records package, please save those as separate files on the FOI fileshare so they are not automatically excluded.

Fees

If any of the following apply, a fee estimate may be required:

- The search and retrieval time are anticipated to exceed 3 hours;
- The volume of hard-copy records is anticipated to exceed 200 pages;
- Preparation time can reasonably be expected to exceed 15 minutes or more.

If so, please complete Sections 2 and 4 of the CFR, add it to the FOI Fileshare, and then email the IAOFlexTeam@gov.bc.ca using the subject line "OCC-2021-13845 - Chris Hodgson - Fee Estimate". For information regarding fee calculation, please refer to the standard Fee Estimate Guidelines.

Load Records to the FOI Fileshare

Please send your completed CFR form and responsive records to IAO via the FOI Fileshare, instead of by email.

- Create a new folder in the FOI Fileshare titled "OCC-2021-13845 - Chris Hodgson - Records"
- Copy all responsive records and the completed CFR to the folder
- Send an email to IAOFlexTeam@gov.bc.ca with the subject line "OCC-2021-13845 - Chris Hodgson - CFR Complete"

If you are having difficulties accessing the FOI Fileshare, please contact IAOFlexTeam@gov.bc.ca.

Reminder

FOIPPA obligates us to assist every applicant and to respond without delay, openly, accurately, and completely. If the public body must defend the adequacy of its search to the Information and Privacy Commissioner at Inquiry, those involved in searching for records may be required to sign affidavits confirming they have conducted an adequate search for relevant records.

Thank you,

Chris Hodgson, Junior FOI Analyst

IAO Flex Team | Information Access Operations | Ministry of Citizens' Services

In response to FOI request: BCCDC Preliminary Report on Extreme Hot Weather Event

From: Lapointe, Lisa PSSG:EX <Lisa.Lapointe@gov.bc.ca>
To: Sidhu, Tej PSSG:EX <Tej.Sidhu@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: September 3, 2021 at 2:21:28 PM Pacific Daylight Time
Attachments: BCCDC Preliminary Report on Extreme Hot Weather.pdf

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2021 4:07 PM
To: Lapointe, Lisa PSSG:EX <Lisa.Lapointe@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: BCCDC Preliminary Report on Extreme Hot Weather Event

Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Office of the PHO
Ministry of Health
4th floor, 1515 Blanshard St
Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT
Victoria, BC
V8W 9P4
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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: Henderson, Sarah [BCCDC] <Sarah.Henderson@bccdc.ca>
Sent: July 13, 2021 11:52 AM
To: Schwandt, Michael [VCH] <michael.schwandt@vch.ca>; Newhouse, Emily [FH] <Emily.Newhouse@fraserhealth.ca>; Waters, Shannon Dr. HLTH:IN <shannon.waters@viha.ca>; XT:Fumerton, Raina HLTH:IN <Raina.Fumerton@northernhealth.ca>; XT:Mema, Dr. Silvina HLTH:IN <Silvina.Mema@interiorhealth.ca>; 'Dr. Kamran Golmohammadi' <Kamran.Golmohammadi@fnha.ca>
Cc: Gustafson, Reka HLTH:IN <reka.gustafson@phsa.ca>; XT:HLTH Kosatsky, Tom <tom.kosatsky@bccdc.ca>; McVea, David [BCCDC] <David.McVea@bccdc.ca>; McLean, Kathleen [BCCDC] <Kathleen.McLean@bccdc.ca>; Lee, Michael [BCCDC] <michael.lee@bccdc.ca>; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: BCCDC Preliminary Report on Extreme Hot Weather Event

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

Dear colleagues –

Please find attached our PRELIMINARY report on all-cause mortality and ambulance dispatches during the recent extreme hot weather event. The report includes data available up to July 12. The Vital Statistics data on mortality will not be fully complete for another week or two, but the available data provide valuable information.

Key messages:

- Mortality was significantly increased on the hottest days of the event
- Increased mortality was most pronounced in Fraser Health followed by Vancouver Coastal
- Increased mortality was limited in those <65 years and pronounced in those 65+
- Mortality was increased in all settings, but markedly increased for deaths in community settings
- We cannot accurately estimate excess mortality until the Vital Statistics data are complete
- At this time, total excess mortality appears to be less than excess deaths reported to the Coroners Service suggesting an increased rate of reporting to the Service during the extreme hot weather event
- Ambulance dispatches were increased for a longer period than mortality

- Relative increases in ambulance dispatches were not consistent across health authorities, with the largest increases in Interior Health and Island Health
- Dispatches in Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health were less elevated overall but were significantly shifted towards heat-related codes and away from non-heat related codes
- More work is needed to understand indoor temperature exposure across the province during the event

Thanks to our amazing team here for pulling this information together quickly. We anticipate more detailed reporting in the coming weeks as the Vital Statistics data become complete.

Thanks,
Sarah

Sarah B. Henderson, PhD
Scientific Director | Environmental Health Services | BCCDC
Associate Professor (Partner) | School of Population and Public Health | UBC
Office: 604.707.2449
Cell: s.22

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[#InPlainSight](#)

I often work outside of normal business hours because it suits me. There is no expectation that you will respond outside of your working hours.

From: Henderson, Sarah [BCCDC]

Sent: Friday, July 09, 2021 11:47 AM

To: Schwandt, Michael [VCH]; Newhouse, Emily [FH]; Waters, Shannon [VIHA]; Fumerton, Raina [NHA]; Mema, Dr. Silvina [IHA]; Golmohammadi, Dr. Kamran [IHA]

Cc: Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC]; Kosatsky, Tom [BCCDC]; McVea, David [BCCDC]; McLean, Kathleen [BCCDC]; Lee, Michael [BCCDC]

Subject: Upcoming preliminary report on extreme hot weather event

Dear EH MHOs –

Our team has been fielding a lot of questions about the extreme hot weather event from your teams. We understand that there is a pressing need for further information.

We are still waiting for the vital statistics data to be complete (should be the week of July 19th) before we can make valid estimates of excess mortality during the event. However, we do have enough information at this time to provide a useful preliminary report on mortality, ambulance dispatches, and temperatures across the province. We will finalize the report on Monday after we get the most recent vital statistics data, and aim to disseminate on Tuesday morning after Reka has had the chance to review.

There is one key preliminary message that I would like to share at this time, because we have been asked by many different groups about it:

From the data available, we do not see evidence of significantly increased mortality in LTC or assisted living facilities. There may have been significant increases in morbidity, but we do not have the data necessary to evaluate that yet.

We will be in touch early next week,
Sarah

Sarah B. Henderson, PhD
Scientific Director | Environmental Health Services | BCCDC
Associate Professor (Partner) | School of Population and Public Health | UBC
Office: 604.707.2449
Cell: s.22

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July 13, 2021

Preliminary report on all-cause mortality and ambulance dispatches during the recent extreme hot weather event in British Columbia

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