

F21-1122

June 29, 2021 – High call volumes and extreme heat BCEHS

Summary: Unprecedented hot weather plus emergencies related to summer outdoor activities are causing systemic issues across the health system and are having a major impact on pre-hospital care and BCEHS. The APBC is detailing long delays and negative impacts on patient health and safety in the mainstream media, and individual paramedics are taking to social media, including this Reddit thread: '[Failure in BCEHS providing healthcare, resulting in deaths.](#)'

Key Messages:

- BCEHS prioritizes the most critically ill and injured patients based on a medical priority dispatch system used around the world.
- On a daily basis, BCEHS responds to more than 1450 medical emergencies province-wide.
- We have seen some dramatic spikes in call volumes recently, and June 28 (yesterday) there was another record high for 911 calls in BCEHS history, with paramedics dispatched to 1,975 medical emergency calls.
 - While these represent the calls that paramedics attend, our dispatch centres are receiving more than 3000 calls, which is more than double the regular number.
- We know that some less time critical calls have faced some longer response times and we apologize for the wait, we know it can be stressful waiting for an ambulance.
- We're asking the public to keep themselves as safe as possible and call 911 if they have a medical emergency - but if it's medical advice they need instead, they can call 811 and speak to a nurse.

Heat-related Calls

- During BC's unprecedented heat wave, BCEHS call takers, dispatchers and paramedics have seen a marked spike in heat-related 911 calls from the public.
- Over this past weekend - Friday, June 25 to early Monday morning, June 28 - paramedics responded to more than 180 (187) calls for heat exhaustion and more than 50 (52) calls for heatstroke.
- Sunday alone (June 27), BCEHS responded to almost 140 heat-related calls: 107 calls for heat exhaustion and 32 calls for heatstroke across the province.
- Yesterday, June 28, saw paramedics responding to 132 heat stroke and heat exhaustion calls. So far this month there have been 534 heat-related calls, compared to 14 in June 2020.

BCEHS Staffing – Paramedics and Dispatch

- BCEHS is continuously monitoring staffing levels and making daily adjustments as needed.
- BCEHS is also implementing staffing model changes and adding more than 500 permanent positions throughout the province this year to enhance staffing.
- BCEHS is a provincial ambulance service with no municipal boundaries, and when there are unstaffed ambulances there is a strong system in place to send ambulances from the surrounding stations.
- BCEHS is increasing our staffing and triage capacity in our dispatch centres to help deal with this unprecedented call volume.
- We have activated our 24/7 Emergency Coordination Centre.
- Our managers and supervisors are out in the field supporting our crews and providing hydration and food and helping paramedics clear the hospital emergency departments quicker as they work in this challenging weather.
- We also have managers in dispatch assisting with calls.
- Improving our staffing levels by strengthening our proactive advanced scheduling, to ensure there are less shifts unfilled in both our dispatch centres and on our front line.

Background:

- On June 28, 911 calls were up 54% and calls needing ambulance dispatch were up 25%.

- Overnight June 28 – 29, BCEHS had two physicians in dispatch to assist.
- At one point overnight there were 230 calls awaiting dispatch. While the majority of calls waiting were yellow, there is inevitable impact on response times for red and purple calls due to the volume of calls to be triaged.
- Unfortunately, there have been deaths related to heat and underlying conditions (heat stroke, secondary cardiac arrest, etc.). **s.13(1)**
- **s.13(1), s.17(1)**
- [REDACTED]
- Across the province, BCEHS experienced 232 hours of off-load delays on June 28.
- The target turn-around time for an ambulance off loading at a hospital is 30 minutes. Across B.C., the average total off load delay is about 30 – 40 hours per 24-hour cycle
- Over the past week, off-load delays increased significantly. Figures provided province-wide totals but the greatest impact is in the lower mainland:
- June 24 – 59 hours
 - June 25 – 82 hours
 - June 26 – 91 hours
 - June 27 – 92 hours
 - June 28 – 232 hours
- Overnight, Vancouver Fire reportedly advised that due to volumes it could only respond to purple calls.
- BCEHS dispatch staffing is not believed to be an issue; the issue is volume of calls.
- Over the weekend, only about 8-9 dispatch shifts were vacant. Today BCEHS dispatch is 100% staffed and they will follow up on yellow calls that were not responded to yesterday.
- Last night volumes were more reasonable than the night before.
- Impact of the heat and volumes is provincial, but the situation is most acute in the LM where off-load delays are compounded by hospitals being on critical care bypass.
- There may also be a correlation between reduced/restricted access to primary care due to the prolonged impact of the pandemic; many GPs are still only offering virtual care so people needing more acute care are calling 911 or using EDs as their first point of contact with health care services.
- BCEHS is developing further mitigation plans. **s.13(1)**
- s.13(1)**

Allegations contained in June 29 Reddit post:

Reddit Post #1 BCparamedic712

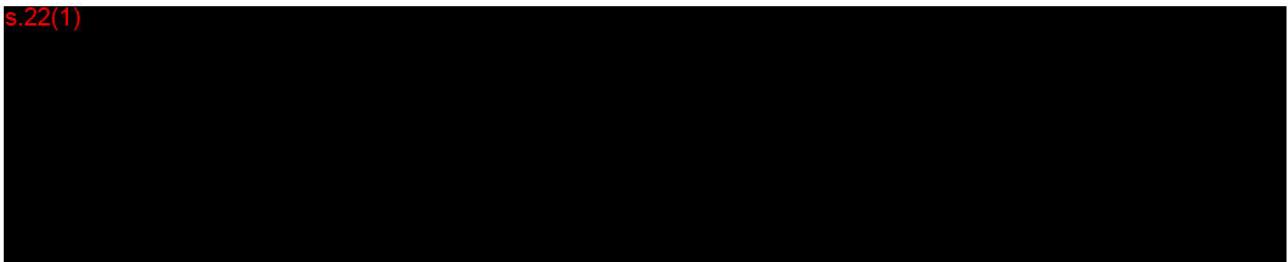
https://www.reddit.com/r/vancouver/comments/o9vf87/failure_in_bcehs_providing_health_care_resulting/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=ios_app&utm_name=iossmf

- *Reddit post: Last night a patient was trying to get a hold of 911 EMCT and couldn't get through, they decided to walk to their nearest Fire Department hall, they collapsed and went into cardiac arrest and died. This should've never happened. No one should be left on hold or unable to call for help in this day in age, in Canada. It's unacceptable and in my opinion, it's criminal.*
s.13(1)
- *Reddit post: Vancouver Fire Department, were on scene with a call, it was delayed and information was initially not a RED or Purple call. While on scene and delayed for EHS, they advised the family and quoted from paramedics "if you want your family member to live, transport them yourself to the hospital" instead of updating our dispatchers who they can communicate to without delay, that the patient has been getting worse, noticing grave patient conditions they instead advised them to transport alone. The*

patient's family did so, and in the parking lot, paramedics noticed the grave situation and while they were already with other patients/prepping for the next call, they jumped into action and did everything they could to help this patient. The last I heard is this patient died (this has been unconfirmed, they may still be alive and were in critical condition, please do not take this patient outcome as direct, it's the intent of how messed up the situation is that this was the result. A more stable patient become unstable and no changes were made and poor advice given). **s.13(1), s.22(1)**

Call Details

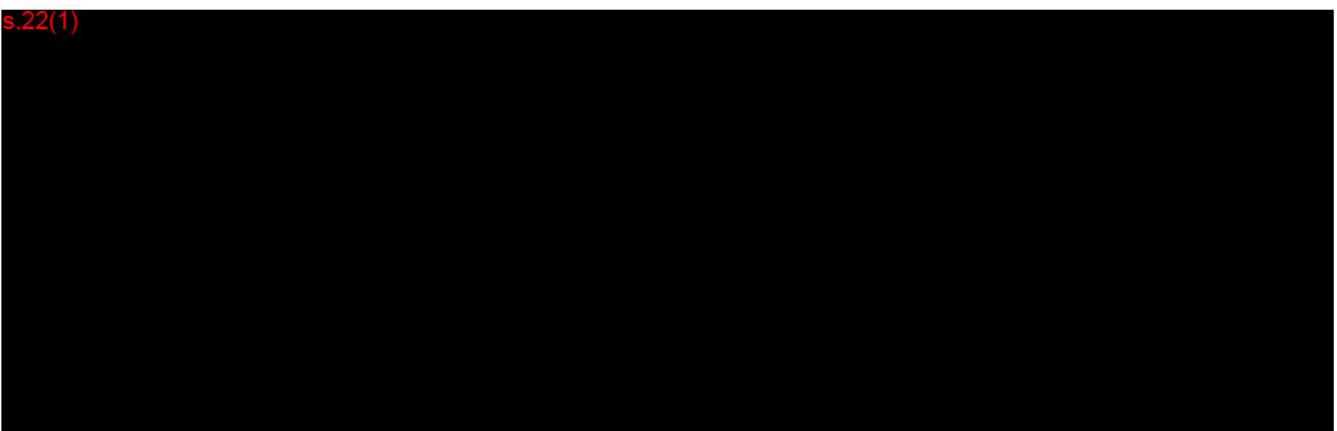
s.22(1)



- Reddit post: Burnaby Fire Department was on scene for a seizure call, holding 2+hours. The patient was awake and responding but still had a neurological episode requiring assessment and further care. They also advised the family to transport and follow. In doing so the patient and family were met by paramedics again at the hospital. Paramedics took over and assessed, gather critical history, obtained vitals and noticed a dangerous blood pressure and immediately got them to the front of the line at triage and into definitive care.

Call Details

s.22(1)



MPDS (911 Ambulance Calls) Response Time by CRM Colour
Excludes dispatched blue (very low acuity) events

Day	MPDS Events	Purple		Red		Orange		Yellow	
		Events	Median Response Time (mm:ss)						
2021-05-16	1,592	27	07:11	420	10:31	489	13:40	656	19:19
2021-05-17	1,603	38	07:23	417	10:27	474	13:31	674	18:30
2021-05-18	1,414	37	07:12	336	10:13	454	12:21	587	18:18
2021-05-19	1,641	43	07:24	407	09:09	543	12:19	648	17:50
2021-05-20	1,609	32	06:34	438	09:49	509	12:18	630	19:14

2021-05-21	1,632	48	07:09	431	10:21	529	12:16	624	18:26
2021-05-22	1,664	45	07:53	439	10:26	536	13:51	644	19:04
2021-05-23	1,505	25	10:20	368	10:45	468	12:40	644	19:44
2021-05-24	1,507	36	08:10	388	09:09	430	11:31	653	15:24
2021-05-25	1,542	28	07:04	403	10:00	472	13:17	639	17:11
2021-05-26	1,414	31	07:07	320	09:21	446	12:34	617	19:34
2021-05-27	1,465	25	06:57	357	09:15	469	13:03	614	19:56
2021-05-28	1,540	38	07:56	380	09:54	555	14:41	567	19:12
2021-05-29	1,617	41	08:29	379	09:24	505	12:36	692	19:05
2021-05-30	1,496	30	07:50	406	10:08	488	13:27	572	17:45
2021-05-31	1,543	45	08:36	418	09:50	453	12:44	627	18:45
2021-06-01	1,681	47	08:09	477	10:49	557	14:39	600	21:23
2021-06-02	1,749	48	08:04	476	10:16	526	14:36	699	18:58
2021-06-03	1,669	48	08:18	447	09:50	499	13:40	675	18:32
2021-06-04	1,482	43	08:25	359	10:34	464	12:45	616	19:05
2021-06-05	1,468	36	07:15	341	10:19	468	12:42	623	19:29
2021-06-06	1,357	21	08:08	373	09:52	402	11:32	561	16:59
2021-06-07	1,436	27	09:56	363	09:47	471	12:53	575	17:47
2021-06-08	1,511	33	08:19	338	09:53	495	12:17	645	18:35
2021-06-09	1,519	39	08:42	366	09:37	505	12:57	609	18:31
2021-06-10	1,489	31	07:12	350	10:10	473	11:39	635	19:34
2021-06-11	1,556	30	06:33	357	09:08	468	13:00	701	19:14
2021-06-12	1,607	33	06:52	415	09:52	485	11:37	674	17:17
2021-06-13	1,531	33	08:55	357	10:14	439	11:56	702	18:32
2021-06-14	1,580	39	06:23	383	09:33	491	12:06	667	17:50
2021-06-15	1,531	38	08:10	387	10:18	471	12:57	635	18:10
2021-06-16	1,569	34	08:48	381	08:57	512	12:22	642	18:32
2021-06-17	1,564	32	08:07	400	10:06	500	12:20	632	19:21
2021-06-18	1,658	23	06:59	403	10:23	573	13:32	659	20:10
2021-06-19	1,503	35	07:45	436	10:14	441	14:03	591	19:24
2021-06-20	1,539	34	07:44	397	10:32	470	13:41	638	19:25
2021-06-21	1,618	27	09:22	430	10:12	526	13:56	635	18:49
2021-06-22	1,604	34	07:40	401	09:53	516	13:03	653	18:09
2021-06-23	1,730	45	07:37	504	09:52	550	13:06	631	20:58
2021-06-24	1,784	39	06:19	501	09:43	556	13:00	688	20:54
2021-06-25	1,833	59	08:19	532	10:42	612	15:05	630	21:11
2021-06-26	1,850	46	09:33	511	10:42	622	14:57	671	22:02
2021-06-27	1,795	60	11:42	583	14:20	580	18:20	572	21:12
2021-06-28	1,975	98	09:55	635	15:09	672	18:14	570	21:09

F21-1133

From: [Lavery, John \[PHSA\]](#)
To: [Galt, Jamie \[EXT\]](#)
Subject: RE: Actions for Climate Change Accountability Report due July 2nd
Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 9:29:34 AM

Hi Jamie – I don't believe there were any projects in the last year and I'm not aware of any being planned by HEMBC right now. That being said, I expect by the end of this FY we will have revisited this area and will have some projects underway for future years.

Cheers,

John

John Lavery
Executive Director
Health Emergency Management British Columbia (HEMBC)
Provincial Health Services Authority
Cell: [s.15\(1\)\(i\)](#)

From: Galt, Jamie HLTH:EX <Jamie.Galt@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, June 23, 2021 8:15 AM
To: Lavery, John [PHSA] <john.lavery@phsa.ca>
Subject: FW: Actions for Climate Change Accountability Report due July 2nd
Importance: High

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

Hi John,

I'm fairly certain there would be no HEMBC actions to consider in the below report – but I'm sharing with you on the off-chance there might be some climate action initiatives that I'm unaware for. Both completed last year or planned in the future.

If I don't hear anything back from you on this I will assume there is nothing completed or planned.

Happy Wed!

Best

J

From: Cameron, Mary HLTH:EX <Mary.Cameron@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 23, 2021 7:55 AM
To: Maxson, Sandra HLTH:EX <Sandra.Maxson@gov.bc.ca>; Day, Meghan HLTH:EX <Meghan.Day@gov.bc.ca>; Ye, Xibiao HLTH:EX <Xibiao.Ye@gov.bc.ca>; Galt, Jamie HLTH:EX

<Jamie.Galt@gov.bc.ca>; Perisic, Dragana HLTH:EX <Dragana.Perisic@gov.bc.ca>; Russo, Geneen HLTH:EX <Geneen.Russo@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Cassady, Adam HLTH:EX <Adam.Cassady@gov.bc.ca>; Parker, Esther HLTH:EX <Esther.Parker@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Actions for Climate Change Accountability Report due July 2nd

Importance: High

Good morning,

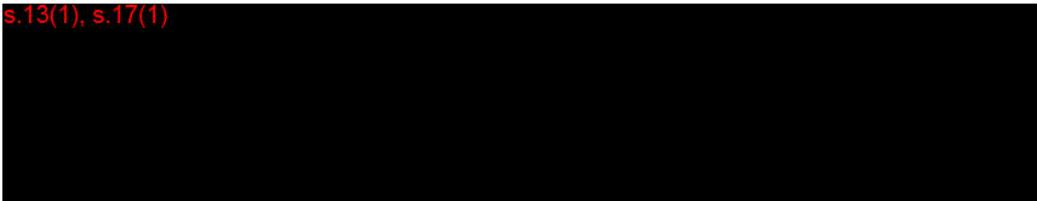
A friendly reminder that actions for the Climate Change Accountability Report are **due to CAS by next Friday, July 2nd.**

If it helps, here are the actions that HPB plans to put forward. CAS recognizes that HLTH has not previously participated in this reporting and Lindsay has offered her support so please reach out to her directly if you have any questions. Thank you!

Climate Change Accountability Reporting for 2020-21 and 2021-22

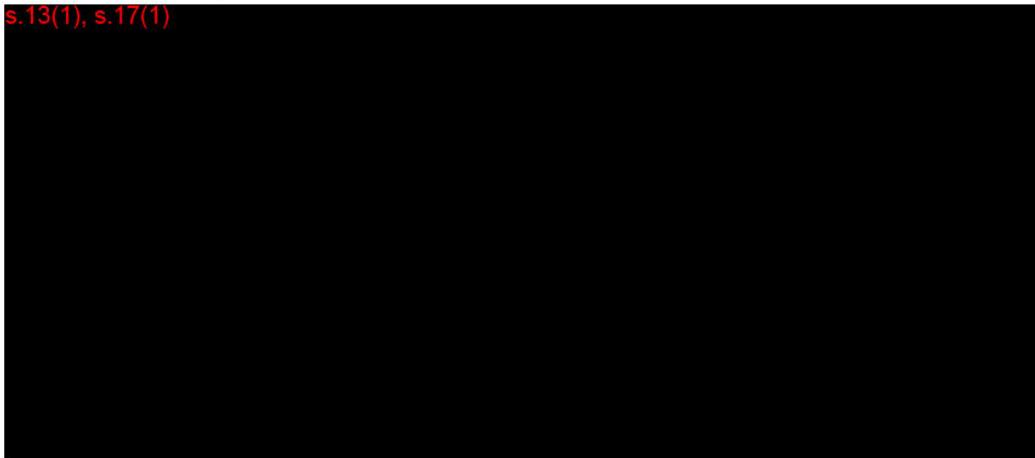
Proposed Actions and Expected Outcomes for 2020-21

s.13(1), s.17(1)



Proposed Actions and Expected Outcomes for 2021-22

s.13(1), s.17(1)



Mary

From: Climate Risk ENV:EX <climaterisk@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: June 15, 2021 1:41 PM

To: Cameron, Mary HLTH:EX <Mary.Cameron@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: Ministry info gathering for 2021 Climate Change Accountability Report - HLTH

Hello and welcome to this year's data collection season,

Background:

As you are aware, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy is required to table an annual report on progress towards greenhouse gas emission targets and management of climate change risks, starting Fall 2020.

The reporting requirements that pertain to your work on managing climate change risks are:

- a description of the actions taken, during the previous fiscal year (i.e. for 2020-21 for the 2021 report),
- a description of the actions proposed, in the most recent budget (i.e. budget 2021-22 for the 2021 report), and
- the outcomes that could reasonably be expected to result from the above actions.

Data collection:

We are collecting data this year in an Excel format in OneDrive. [Your file can be found and edited by following this link](#). Multiple people can work in the file at once, and anyone with the link has access.

One tab is pre-populated with data reported last year. Please verify the pre-populated data and update as required. Unlike last year, we are not collecting information about expenditures (e.g., \$5M was spent...). We will be working with the Ministry of Finance on how best to report out the financial information. The rest of the tabs and form fields request information about expected outcomes of the Actions, and what you have planned for the fiscal year 2021/2022. [Follow this link to review a Guidance document on preparing Action and Outcome statements.](#)

If you have any questions, please contact [Lindsay Johnson](mailto:Lindsay.Johnson@gov.bc.ca) with the Climate Risk Management team – [Lindsay.johnson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lindsay.Johnson@gov.bc.ca). We are here to help.

Data use:

We have made efforts this year to align and minimize reporting asks and will use the information you provide here to inform the following disclosure requirements, in addition to the CCAA Minister's Report: CDP Reporting for Regions4, Under2 Coalition, Pan Canadian Framework synthesis and final report, and Action Plan and Progress Assessment for the OAG's Audit on Managing Climate Risk. We may need to reach out again to fill any gaps as necessary.

Timeline:

We ask that your data is complete by **Friday July 2, 2021** and we thank you in advance for the time and effort you put in to reporting annually.

Lindsay Johnson, MSc (she/her)

Policy Analyst, Climate Risk Management

[Climate Action Secretariat](#)

I respectfully acknowledge the Lekwungen People, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, and all Indigenous Peoples of British Columbia, on whose territories I gratefully work and live.



From: Galt, Jamie HLTH:EX
To: Kuhn, Ryan [IHA]; Delorme, Gerry [PHSA]; Charters, Mary [NHA]; Lawson, Danika [VIHA]; Phillips, Mark [VCH]; Lavery, John [PHSA]; Hutton, David [PHSA]
Cc: hlth Emergency Preparedness Staff; hlth.dutyofficer@gov.bc.ca [EXT]
Subject: Heat Impacts - Provincial Materials
Date: Thursday, June 24, 2021 1:22:53 PM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

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

Hi All,

Given the forecasted high temperatures across the province I am sharing provincial level background documents and resources on the high heat hazard. Please feel free to give me a call if you have any questions. I will also have our Provincial Health Duty Officer share this with each on-call region.

COVID-19 Documents

- [Guidance for community cooling centres in the context of COVID-19](#)
 - Note this document was created in August 2020 and has not been updated since that timeframe
- [Interim Guidance for Group Lodging During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
 - Although Group Lodging specific, this document is very recent and may support the creation of a cooling centre

BCCDC Heat Impacts Map

The BC Heat Impacts Prediction System (BCHIPS) interactive online mapping system (the BCHIPS Map) is intended for use by members of the public to support health protection during hot weather.

- [BC Heat Impacts Prediction System \(BCHIPS\)](#)
 - Map provides limited forecast ability as well as comparison to hottest year, and daily averages

EMBC support to Heat Impacts (Cooling Centres in communities)

I also had a brief conversations with Pader Brach – ED of Operations at EMBC. He wanted to highlight the following points:

- IF funding or resources are requested to EMBC for support to heat impacts (i.e cooling centres in community), normal EMBC processes. This means the following:
 - Local authorities must open conversations with their EMBC regional contact, and submit resource requests as appropriate;
 - In order for resource requests to be supported, communities must identify how they have exhausted all other opportunities to provide support within their own capacity;
 - EMBC will review each request on case by case basis and approve based on the

- imminent risk to public safety; and
- It is on the onus of the community to demonstrate that they do not have the resources within their community and an imminent risk is present.
- MHOs can support communities in identifying health impacts and risk factors to specific groups (I.e. unsheltered populations). The above mapping tool may be useful to demonstrate potential impacts.

Please let me know if you have any questions,

Best

Jamie

Jamie Galt, CD, MA
A/Director
Emergency Management Unit
COVID Response & Health Emergency Management
Ministry of Health
Office: (778) 698-5823
Cell: **s.15(1)(l)**
PO Box 9639 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria BC V8W 9P1



If this is an emergency impacting the provincial health system, please contact our 24/7 Duty Officer at **s.15(1)(l)** or hlth.dutyofficer@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 and delete the message.

I respectfully acknowledge the unceded territories of the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEC peoples'.

From: [Hutton, David \[PHSA\]](#)
To: [Hyland, Ita \[PHSA\]](#)
Cc: [Lavery, John \[PHSA\]](#)
Subject: RE: Heat warning
Date: Thursday, June 24, 2021 6:09:43 PM

Thanks, Ita. Hoping it is the same as it was the simplest. Dave

From: Hyland, Ita [PHSA] <ita.Hyland@phsa.ca>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 6:08 PM
To: Lavery, John [PHSA] <john.lavery@phsa.ca>; Hutton, David [PHSA] <david.hutton@phsa.ca>
Cc: Phillips, Mark [VCH] <Mark.Phillips@vch.ca>
Subject: RE: Heat warning

Last time we sent a weather alert to Diane Foster for distribution to PHSA SLT, and Carolina Cerna for distribution to PHSA ELT. I can connect with Carolina to see if that continues to be the preferred process.

Ita Hyland

Coordinator, Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC)
Mobile: 604-377-0552

From: Lavery, John [PHSA]
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 6:00 PM
To: Hyland, Ita [PHSA] <ita.Hyland@phsa.ca>; Hutton, David [PHSA] <david.hutton@phsa.ca>
Cc: Phillips, Mark [VCH] <Mark.Phillips@vch.ca>
Subject: Heat warning

Hi Ita and Dave, it is possible tomorrow there will be some communication going out from LM MHOs, BCCDC, and Environment Canada, issuing a heat warning. Mark told me they will send this out to the AOCs in the LM, including C&W, and copy you. Do you have a sense of who you would send it out to in PHSA?

If it doesn't happen tomorrow, it would be Saturday.

Thanks,

John

John Lavery
Executive Director
Health Emergency Management BC
Mobile: **s.15(1)(l)**

From: [Lavery, John \[PHSA\]](#)
To: [Thumath, Meaghan](#)
Subject: Fwd: Heat wave and temperature control for **s.13(1), s.17(1)**
Date: Thursday, June 24, 2021 7:15:30 PM

Hi Meaghan - I have sent your question along to our team - I'll let you know what I hear back ASAP.

My best,

John

John Lavery
Executive Director
Health Emergency Management BC
Mobile: **s.15(1)(l)**

On Jun. 24, 2021 7:06 p.m., "Thumath, Meaghan" <meaghan.thumath@vch.ca> wrote:
Hi John, see below!

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Thumath, Meaghan" <meaghan.thumath@vch.ca>
Date: June 23, 2021 at 14:17:00 PDT
To: "Hennecke, Peter [PHSA]" <Peter.Hennecke@phsa.ca>, "Francescutti, Jay [PHSA]" <Jay.Francescutti@phsa.ca>
Cc: "Dawar, Meena [VCH]" <Meena.Dawar@vch.ca>, "Weatherill, Shelagh [VCH]" <shelagh.weatherill1@vch.ca>, "Chou, Hang [VCH]" <Hang.Chou@vch.ca>, "Gill, Jagdeep [VCH]" <Jagdeep.Gill@vch.ca>
Subject: Heat wave and temperature control for s.13(1), s.17(1)

Hi Peter and Jay, thanks again for your brilliant assistance with the COVID isolation sites last year! I'm hoping you might have some advice for our COVID-19 vaccine teams who are **s.13(1), s.17(1)**

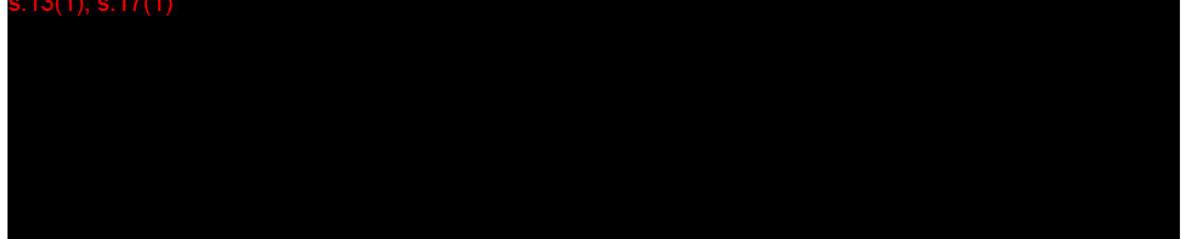


Image of the sites:

<https://www.vcc.ca/about/college-information/news/article/vcc-partners-with-vch-to-support-access-to-covid-19-testing.html>

<https://commons.bcit.ca/news/2021/04/bcit-supports-vaccination-rollout/>

We can try to get you some better photos with more details or let me know if you might have a staff person that could stop by and provide some advice?

Many thanks,

M.

Meaghan Thumath, RN, MPH, D.LSHTM *she/her*

Regional Director Communicable Disease Control, Vancouver Coastal Health
Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, University of British Columbia
Clinician Scientist, Centre for Gender and Sexual Health Equity (CGSHE)

Email: Meaghan.thumath@vch.ca

Mobile: [REDACTED]

Office: #800-601 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC, V5Z 4C2

Admin: Lisan Kwintt lisan.kwindt@vch.ca 6046752528

I acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded homelands of the xʷməθkʷyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwatə?/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations

From: Hennecke, Peter [PHSA]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 12:39 PM
To: Etherington, Caitlin [VCH]; Thumath, Meaghan
Cc: Compton, Miranda [VCH]; Anderson, Michelle [VCH]
Subject: RE: Urgent ERC shower trailer inquiry

Jay Francescutti,
Manager, Deployments and Facilities
BC Mobile Medical Unit – Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC)
Provincial Health Services Authority

Office: 200-1333 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC, V6H 1G9
Phone: 604-940-1498 | Mobile: 604 690-3504 | jay.francescutti@phsa.ca | www.bcmmu.ca

Peter Hennecke, RN, BScN, MA, CD1
Clinical Operations Director
BC Mobile Medical Unit – Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC)
Provincial Health Services Authority

Office: 200-1333 W Broadway, Vancouver, BC
Phone: 604-875-7384 | Mobile: 604-880-0869 | peter.hennecke@phsa.ca | www.bcmmu.ca

Confidentiality Notice: This message and any attachments are intended solely for the use of the designated addressee(s) and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and/or exempt from disclosure. Any unauthorized viewing, disclosure, copying, distribution or use of information contained

in this e-mail is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately and permanently delete the e-mail unread, including any attachments from your computer system. Thank you.

From: [Thanh, David \[PHSA\]](#)
To: [Lavery, John \[PHSA\]](#)
Cc: [Francescutti, Jay \[PHSA\]](#); [Delorme, Gerry \(PHSA\) \[VIHA\]](#); [Robin Gardner](#); [James, Landon \[PHSA\]](#); [Phillips, Mark \[VCH\]](#)
Subject: Re: Heat wave and temperature control for **s.13(1), s.17(1)**
Date: Friday, June 25, 2021 8:24:31 AM

s.13(1), s.17(1)
[REDACTED]

D

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 24, 2021, at 21:46, Lavery, John [PHSA] <john.lavery@phsa.ca> wrote:

Thanks both. **s.13(1), s.17(1)**
[REDACTED]

John Lavery
Executive Director
Health Emergency Management British Columbia (HEMBC)
Provincial Health Services Authority
Cell: **s.15(1)(i)**

From: Francescutti, Jay [PHSA] <Jay.Francescutti@phsa.ca>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 8:15 PM
To: Thanh, David [PHSA] <david.thanh@phsa.ca>
Cc: Lavery, John [PHSA] <john.lavery@phsa.ca>; Delorme, Gerry (PHSA) [VIHA]
<Gerry.Delorme@VIHA.CA>; Robin Gardner <**s.22(1)**>; James, Landon
[PHSA] <Landon.James@phsa.ca>; Phillips, Mark [VCH] <Mark.Phillips@vch.ca>
Subject: Re: Heat wave and temperature control **s.13(1), s.17(1)**

s.13(1), s.17(1)
[REDACTED]

Jay Francescutti,
Manager, Deployments and Facilities
BC Mobile Medical Unit
Provincial Health Services Authority

200-1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC
V6H 1G9 Canada
Phone: [604-940-1498](tel:604-940-1498)
Mobile: [604-690-3504](tel:604-690-3504)

E-mail: Jay.francescutti@phsa.ca
Web: <http://www.hcmmu.ca>

On Jun 24, 2021, at 8:00 PM, Thanh, David [PHSA]
<david.thanh@phsa.ca> wrote:

s.13(1), s.17(1)


I've sent an email to our contact at Environment Canada to see if they can give me the prediction for humidity for the next week.

s.13(1), s.17(1)


Cheers,

David

From: John Lavery <john.lavery@phsa.ca>
Date: Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 19:14
To: "Delorme, Gerry (PHSA) [VIHA]"
<Gerry.Delorme@VIHA.CA>, Robin Gardner
<[s.22\(1\)](#)>, Jay Francescutti
<Jay.Francescutti@phsa.ca>, "James, Landon [PHSA]"
<Landon.James@phsa.ca>, "Thanh, David [PHSA]"
<david.thanh@phsa.ca>, "Phillips, Mark [VCH]"
<Mark.Phillips@vch.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Heat wave and temperature control 

Hi everyone, please see the email below from VCH about 
 Any ideas for them?

Thanks,

John

John Lavery
Executive Director
Health Emergency Management BC
Mobile: 

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Thumath, Meaghan" <meaghan.thumath@vch.ca>
Date: Jun. 24, 2021 7:06 p.m.
Subject: Fwd: Heat wave and temperature control **s.13(1), s.17(1)**

[REDACTED]
To: "Lavery, John [PHSA]" <john.lavery@phsa.ca>
Cc:
Hi John, see below!

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Thumath, Meaghan" <meaghan.thumath@vch.ca>
Date: June 23, 2021 at 14:17:00 PDT
To: "Hennecke, Peter [PHSA]" <Peter.Hennecke@phsa.ca>, "Francescutti, Jay [PHSA]" <Jay.Francescutti@phsa.ca>
Cc: "Dawar, Meena [VCH]" <Meena.Dawar@vch.ca>, "Weatherill, Shelagh [VCH]" <shelagh.weatherill1@vch.ca>, "Chou, Hang [VCH]" <Hang.Chou@vch.ca>, "Gill, Jagdeep [VCH]" <Jagdeep.Gill@vch.ca>
Subject: Heat wave and temperature control **s.13(1), s.17(1)**

Hi Peter and Jay, thanks again for your brilliant assistance with the COVID isolation sites last year! I'm hoping you might have some advice for our COVID-19 vaccine teams

s.13(1), s.17(1)

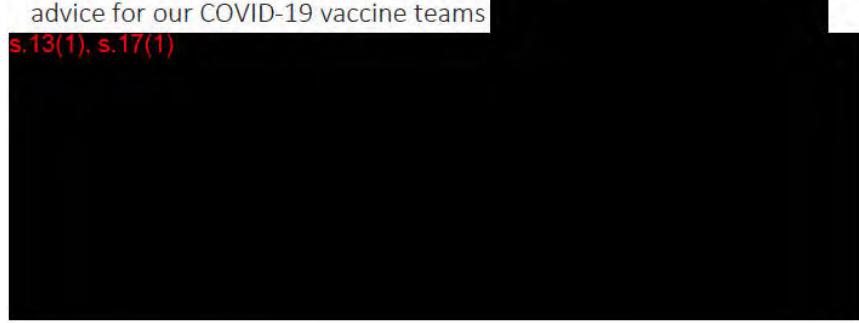


Image of the sites:

<https://www.vcc.ca/about/college-information/news/article/vcc-partners-with-vch-to-support-access-to-covid-19-testing.html>

<https://commons.bcit.ca/news/2021/04/bcit-supports-vaccination-rollout/>

We can try to get you some better photos with more details or let me know if you might have a staff person that could stop by and provide some advice?

Many thanks,

M.

Meaghan Thumath, RN, MPH, D.LSHTM *she/her*

Regional Director Communicable Disease Control, Vancouver Coastal Health
Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, University of British Columbia
Clinician Scientist, Centre for Gender and Sexual Health Equity (CGSHE)

Email: Meaghan.thumath@vch.ca

Mobile: s. 15(1)(l) [REDACTED]

Office: #800-601 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC, V5Z 4C2

Admin: Lisan Kwindt lisan.kwindt@vch.ca 6046752528

I acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded homelands of the xʷməθkʷy̓am (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlilwataʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations

From: Hennecke, Peter [PHSA]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 12:39 PM
To: Etherington, Caitlin [VCH]; Thumath, Meaghan
Cc: Compton, Miranda [VCH]; Anderson, Michelle [VCH]
Subject: RE: Urgent ERC shower trailer inquiry

Jay Francescutti,
Manager, Deployments and Facilities
BC Mobile Medical Unit – Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC)
Provincial Health Services Authority

Office: 200-1333 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC, V6H 1G9
Phone: 604-940-1498 | Mobile: 604 690-3504 | jay.francescutti@phsa.ca | www.bcmmu.ca

Peter Hennecke, RN, BScN, MA, CD1
Clinical Operations Director
BC Mobile Medical Unit – Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC)
Provincial Health Services Authority

Office: 200-1333 W Broadway, Vancouver, BC
Phone: 604-875-7384 | Mobile: 604-880-0869 | peter.hennecke@phsa.ca | www.bcmmu.ca

Confidentiality Notice: This message and any attachments are intended solely for the use of the designated addressee(s) and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and/or exempt from disclosure. Any unauthorized viewing, disclosure, copying, distribution or use of information contained in this e-mail is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately and permanently delete the e-mail unread, including any attachments from your computer system. Thank you.

From: [Lavery, John \[PHSA\]](#)
To: [James, Landon \[PHSA\]](#); [Francescutti, Jay \[PHSA\]](#); [Thanh, David \[PHSA\]](#)
Cc: [Delorme, Gerry \(PHSA\) \[VIHA\]](#); [Robin Gardner](#); [Phillips, Mark \[VCH\]](#)
Subject: RE: Heat wave and temperature control [s.13\(1\), s.17\(1\)](#)
Date: Friday, June 25, 2021 9:00:51 AM

Thanks Landon, good points. [s.13\(1\), s.17\(1\)](#)

John Lavery
Executive Director
Health Emergency Management British Columbia (HEMBC)
Provincial Health Services Authority
Cell: [s.15\(1\)\(i\)](#)

From: James, Landon [PHSA] <Landon.James@phsa.ca>
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2021 8:33 AM
To: Lavery, John [PHSA] <john.lavery@phsa.ca>; Francescutti, Jay [PHSA] <Jay.Francescutti@phsa.ca>; Thanh, David [PHSA] <david.thanh@phsa.ca>
Cc: Delorme, Gerry (PHSA) [VIHA] <Gerry.Delorme@VIHA.CA>; Robin Gardner <[s.22\(1\)](#)>; Phillips, Mark [VCH] <Mark.Phillips@vch.ca>
Subject: Re: Heat wave and temperature control [s.13\(1\), s.17\(1\)](#)

[s.13\(1\), s.17\(1\)](#)

L

From: Lavery, John [PHSA] <john.lavery@phsa.ca>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 9:46:22 PM
To: Francescutti, Jay [PHSA] <Jay.Francescutti@phsa.ca>; Thanh, David [PHSA] <david.thanh@phsa.ca>
Cc: Delorme, Gerry (PHSA) [VIHA] <Gerry.Delorme@VIHA.CA>; Robin Gardner <[s.22\(1\)](#)>; James, Landon [PHSA] <Landon.James@phsa.ca>; Phillips, Mark [VCH] <Mark.Phillips@vch.ca>
Subject: RE: Heat wave and temperature control [s.13\(1\), s.17\(1\)](#)

Thanks both. [s.13\(1\), s.17\(1\)](#)

John Lavery
Executive Director
Health Emergency Management British Columbia (HEMBC)
Provincial Health Services Authority

Cell: **s.15(1)(l)**

From: Francescutti, Jay [PHSA] <Jay.Francescutti@phsa.ca>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 8:15 PM
To: Thanh, David [PHSA] <david.thanh@phsa.ca>
Cc: Lavery, John [PHSA] <john.lavery@phsa.ca>; Delorme, Gerry (PHSA) [VIHA]
<Gerry.Delorme@VIHA.CA>; Robin Gardner <**s.22(1)**>; James, Landon [PHSA]
<Landon.James@phsa.ca>; Phillips, Mark [VCH] <Mark.Phillips@vch.ca>
Subject: Re: Heat wave and temperature control **s.13(1), s.17(1)**

s.13(1), s.17(1)

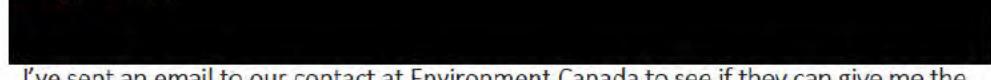


Jay Francescutti,
Manager, Deployments and Facilities
BC Mobile Medical Unit
Provincial Health Services Authority

200-1333 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC
V6H 1G9 Canada
Phone: [604-940-1498](tel:604-940-1498)
Mobile: **s.15(1)(l)**
E-mail: Jay.francescutti@phsa.ca
Web: <http://www.bcmmu.ca>

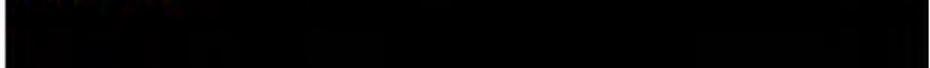
On Jun 24, 2021, at 8:00 PM, Thanh, David [PHSA] <david.thanh@phsa.ca> wrote:

s.13(1), s.17(1)



I've sent an email to our contact at Environment Canada to see if they can give me the prediction for humidity for the next week.

s.13(1), s.17(1)



Cheers,

David

From: John Lavery <john.lavery@phsa.ca>
Date: Thursday, June 24, 2021 at 19:14
To: "Delorme, Gerry (PHSA) [VIHA]" <Gerry.Delorme@VIHA.CA>, Robin Gardner <[s.22\(1\)](#)>, Jay Francescutti <Jay.Francescutti@phsa.ca>, "James, Landon [PHSA]" <Landon.James@phsa.ca>, "Thanh, David [PHSA]" <david.thanh@phsa.ca>, "Phillips, Mark [VCH]" <Mark.Phillips@vch.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Heat wave and temperature control [s.13\(1\), s.17\(1\)](#)

Hi everyone, please see the email below from VCH about heat in tents. Any ideas for them?

Thanks,

John

John Lavery
Executive Director
Health Emergency Management BC
Mobile: [s.15\(1\)\(l\)](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Thumath, Meaghan" <meaghan.thumath@vch.ca>
Date: Jun. 24, 2021 7:06 p.m.
Subject: Fwd: Heat wave and temperature control [s.13\(1\), s.17\(1\)](#)
To: "Lavery, John [PHSA]" <john.lavery@phsa.ca>
Cc:
Hi John, see below!

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Thumath, Meaghan" <meaghan.thumath@vch.ca>
Date: June 23, 2021 at 14:17:00 PDT
To: "Hennecke, Peter [PHSA]" <Peter.Hennecke@phsa.ca>, "Francescutti, Jay [PHSA]" <Jay.Francescutti@phsa.ca>
Cc: "Dawar, Meena [VCH]" <Meena.Dawar@vch.ca>, "Weatherill, Shelagh [VCH]" <shelagh.weatherill@vch.ca>, "Chou, Hang [VCH]" <Hang.Chou@vch.ca>, "Gill, Jagdeep [VCH]" <Jagdeep.Gill@vch.ca>
Subject: Heat wave and temperature control [s.13\(1\), s.17\(1\)](#)

Hi Peter and Jay, thanks again for your brilliant assistance with the COVID isolation sites last year! I'm hoping you might have some advice for our COVID-19 vaccine teams
[s.13\(1\), s.17\(1\)](#)

s.13(1), s.17(1)

Image of the sites:

<https://www.vcc.ca/about/college-information/news/article/vcc-partners-with-vch-to-support-access-to-covid-19-testing.html>

<https://commons.bcit.ca/news/2021/04/bcit-supports-vaccination-rollout/>

We can try to get you some better photos with more details or let me know if you might have a staff person that could stop by and provide some advice?

Many thanks,

M.

Meaghan Thumath, RN, MPH, D.LSHTM *she/her*

Regional Director Communicable Disease Control, Vancouver Coastal Health
Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, University of British Columbia
Clinician Scientist, Centre for Gender and Sexual Health Equity (CGSHE)

Email: Meaghan.thumath@vch.ca

Mobile: **s.15(1)(l)**

Office: #800-601 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC, V5Z 4C2

Admin: Lisan Kwindt lisan.kwindt@vch.ca 6046752528

I acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded homelands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓am (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations

From: Hennecke, Peter [PHSA]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 12:39 PM
To: Etherington, Caitlin [VCH]; Thumath, Meaghan
Cc: Compton, Miranda [VCH]; Anderson, Michelle [VCH]
Subject: RE: Urgent ERC shower trailer inquiry

Jay Francescutti,

Manager, Deployments and Facilities
BC Mobile Medical Unit – Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC)
Provincial Health Services Authority

Office: 200-1333 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC, V6H 1G9
Phone: 604-940-1498 | Mobile: 604 690-3504 | jay.francescutti@phsa.ca | www.bcmmu.ca

Peter Hennecke, RN, BScN, MA, CD1

Clinical Operations Director

BC Mobile Medical Unit – Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC)

Provincial Health Services Authority

Office: 200-1333 W Broadway, Vancouver, BC

Phone: 604-875-7384 | Mobile: 604-880-0869 | peter.hennecke@phsa.ca | www.bcmmu.ca

Confidentiality Notice: This message and any attachments are intended solely for the use of the designated addressee(s) and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and/or exempt from disclosure. Any unauthorized viewing, disclosure, copying, distribution or use of information contained in this e-mail is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately and permanently delete the e-mail unread, including any attachments from your computer system. Thank you.

From: Phillips, Mark [VCH]
To: dan@rentalnetwork.ca
Cc: Lavery, John [PHSA]
Subject: s.13(1), s.17(1)
Date: Friday, June 25, 2021 9:18:35 AM

Hi Dan,

Appreciate the guidance and any info you can share. We will reach out to the leads to get some additional site details for you.

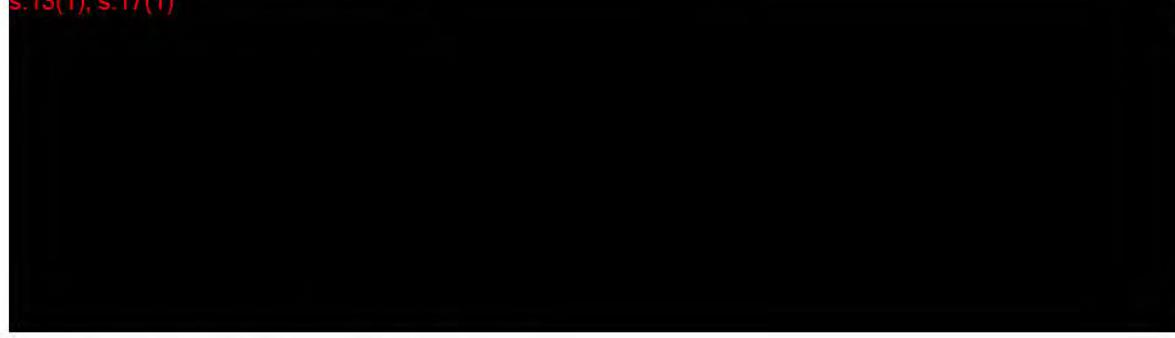
My best,

Mark Phillips
Director, Emergency Management and Fire Safety
Health Emergency Management BC
604-816-2284

From: [Lavery, John \[PHSA\]](#)
To: [Thumath, Meaghan](#)
Subject: RE: Heat wave and temperature control **s.13(1), s.17(1)**
Date: Friday, June 25, 2021 9:28:23 AM

Hi Meghan – our team recommends **s.13(1), s.17(1)**

s.13(1), s.17(1)



I'll keep you posted on what we are able to find.

My best,

John

John Lavery
Executive Director
Health Emergency Management British Columbia (HEMBC)
Provincial Health Services Authority
Cell: **s.15(1)(l)**

From: Thumath, Meaghan <meaghan.thumath@vch.ca>
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2021 7:06 PM
To: Lavery, John [PHSA] <john.lavery@phsa.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Heat wave and temperature control **s.13(1), s.17(1)**

Hi John, see below!

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Thumath, Meaghan" <meaghan.thumath@vch.ca>
Date: June 23, 2021 at 14:17:00 PDT
To: "Hennecke, Peter [PHSA]" <Peter.Hennecke@phsa.ca>, "Francescutti, Jay [PHSA]" <Jay.Francescutti@phsa.ca>
Cc: "Dawar, Meena [VCH]" <Meena.Dawar@vch.ca>, "Weatherill, Shelagh [VCH]" <shelagh.weatherill@vch.ca>, "Chou, Hang [VCH]" <Hang.Chou@vch.ca>, "Gill, Jagdeep [VCH]" <Jagdeep.Gill@vch.ca>
Subject: Heat wave and temperature control **s.13(1), s.17(1)**

Hi Peter and Jay, thanks again for your brilliant assistance with the COVID isolation sites last year! I'm hoping you might have some advice for our COVID-19 vaccine teams

s.13(1), s.17(1)



Image of the sites:

<https://www.vcc.ca/about/college-information/news/article/vcc-partners-with-vch-to-support-access-to-covid-19-testing.html>

<https://commons.bcit.ca/news/2021/04/bcit-supports-vaccination-rollout/>

We can try to get you some better photos with more details or let me know if you might have a staff person that could stop by and provide some advice?

Many thanks,

M.

Meaghan Thumath, RN, MPH, D.LSHTM *she/her*

Regional Director Communicable Disease Control, Vancouver Coastal Health
Clinical Assistant Professor, School of Nursing, University of British Columbia
Clinician Scientist, Centre for Gender and Sexual Health Equity (CGSHE)

Email: Meaghan.thumath@vch.ca

Mobile: s.15(1)(l)

Office: #800-601 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC, V5Z 4C2

Admin: Lisan Kwintdt lisan.kwindt@vch.ca 6046752528

I acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded homelands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓ílwatə/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations

From: Hennecke, Peter [PHSA]
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2020 12:39 PM
To: Etherington, Caitlin [VCH]; Thumath, Meaghan

Cc: Compton, Miranda [VCH]; Anderson, Michelle [VCH]

Subject: RE: Urgent ERC shower trailer inquiry

Jay Francescutti,

Manager, Deployments and Facilities

BC Mobile Medical Unit – Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC)

Provincial Health Services Authority

Office: 200-1333 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC, V6H 1G9

Phone: 604-940-1498 | Mobile: **s.15(1)(l)** | jay.francescutti@phsa.ca | www.bcmmu.ca

Peter Hennecke, RN, BScN, MA, CD1

Clinical Operations Director

BC Mobile Medical Unit – Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC)

Provincial Health Services Authority

Office: 200-1333 W Broadway, Vancouver, BC

Phone: 604-875-7384 | Mobile: 604-880-0869 | peter.hennecke@phsa.ca | www.bcmmu.ca

Confidentiality Notice: This message and any attachments are intended solely for the use of the designated addressee(s) and may contain information that is privileged, confidential and/or exempt from disclosure. Any unauthorized viewing, disclosure, copying, distribution or use of information contained in this e-mail is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately and permanently delete the e-mail unread, including any attachments from your computer system. Thank you.

From: [Hutton, David \[PHSA\]](#)
To: [Hyland, Ita \[PHSA\]](#)
Cc: [Lavery, John \[PHSA\]](#)
Subject: Re: WEATHER ALERT: Heat Warning
Date: Friday, June 25, 2021 9:33:35 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Thanks, Ita. I'll call you in a few minutes.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jun 25, 2021, at 9:29 AM, Hyland, Ita [PHSA] <Ita.Hyland@phsa.ca> wrote:

I see that the content focused on the lower mainland and Fraser Health. I'll make edits to tailor content to PHSA and the whole province.

No word back from Carolina but I will follow up.

Ita

From: Phillips, Mark [VCH]
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2021 9:23 AM
To: Lavery, John [PHSA] <john.lavery@phsa.ca>; Hutton, David [PHSA] <david.hutton@phsa.ca>; Hyland, Ita [PHSA] <Ita.Hyland@phsa.ca>
Subject: Fwd: WEATHER ALERT: Heat Warning

Fyi.

Mark Phillips
604-816-2284

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Blessin, Scott [PHSA]" <Scott.Blessin@phsa.ca>
Date: Jun. 25, 2021 9:21 a.m.
Subject: WEATHER ALERT: Heat Warning
To: ".FHA Directors Forum" <fhadirforum@fraserhealth.ca>
Cc:
sent on behalf of Dr. Emily Newhouse, Medical Health Officer for Environmental Health in Fraser Health & Mark Phillips, Director, HEMBC Lower Mainland

HEMBC Alert: Environment Canada Weather Warning

5:16 A PDT Friday 25 June 2021

Heat Warning in effect for:

- Fraser Valley - central including Chilliwack
- Fraser Valley - east including Hope
- Fraser Valley - west including Abbotsford

- Metro Vancouver - central including the City of Vancouver Burnaby and New Westminster

Threat:

Fraser Valley: Daytime highs ranging from 32 to 39 degrees celsius combined with overnight lows of 18 to 21 degrees celsius. Humidex values during this period will reach the high 30's to possibly the low 40's.

Metro Vancouver: Daytime highs ranging from 29 to 38 degrees celsius combined with overnight lows of 18 to 21 degrees celsius. Humidex values during this period will reach the high 30's to possibly the low 40's. A dangerous long duration heat wave will affect B.C. beginning today and lasting until at least Wednesday.

Timespan: Today to at least Wednesday.

Find further details here: https://weather.gc.ca/warnings/index_e.html?prov=bc.

Dear Colleagues,

We are set for very hot temperatures in the coming weeks. These high temperatures may result in an increase in heat-related illnesses, require closer monitoring of patient/resident care environments, and require consideration for at-risk populations.

Please circulate the following information to the appropriate staff.

Yours,

Dr. Emily Newhouse, MHO for Environmental Health at Fraser Health Authority

For Home Health, Community Care and MHSU

Some of your clients may be more vulnerable to extreme heat:

- Older adults
- Infants and young children
- People with chronic illnesses (cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, renal disease, psychiatric illness)
- People who are physically impaired (confined to bed, or dependence for assistance with daily living, sensory/cognitive impairment)
- People taking certain medications (antihypertensives, antidepressants, antipsychotics, anti-Parkinson's agents)
- Socially disadvantaged (low income, homeless, living alone)
- Newcomers to Canada
- Occupational groups (work outside, increased physical strain)
- The physically active (increased physical strain, reduced perception of risk)

If you work with vulnerable clients:

- Make sure clients have access to water and cool areas while

- maintaining physical distancing: where possible pull shades and increase air flow in their area.
- Watch for the symptoms of heat illness: dizziness/fainting; nausea/vomiting; rapid breathing and heartbeat; extreme thirst; decreased urination with unusually dark urine, confusion and/or lack of alertness.
- Be aware that clients on [certain medications](#), including some for mental health, may be at increased risk.
- Advise family to check on vulnerable clients during hot days.
- For MHSU partners and clients who may not have a stable home, please our resource: [Extreme Heat and those experiencing homelessness: a primer for community organizations](#)
- Be aware that some clients may be more prone to suicidal ideation during extreme heat events.

For more information on caring for at risk clients, please see Health Canada resources:

- [Heat-related Death may Occur at Home Alone](#)
- [Emergency Preparedness](#)
- [Extreme Heat Events Guidelines: Technical Guide for Health Care Workers](#)

For Homelessness and Housing Tables

Summer heat can pose serious health risks to people experiencing homelessness or living in precarious housing, especially those with pre-existing heart, lung, or mental health conditions. The good news is there are ways to prevent heat-related illnesses. [FHA has created a resource](#) provides tools and resources related to extreme-heat response for those who work with people experiencing homelessness or in low-income buildings. Please distribute **widely**.

For Long Term Care and Day Programs

Certain members of the community are at higher risk for heat-related illness and death, including:

- Older adults
- Infants and young children
- People with chronic illnesses (cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, renal disease, psychiatric illness)
- People who are physically impaired (confined to bed, or dependence for assistance with daily living, sensory/cognitive impairment)
- People taking certain medications (antihypertensives, antidepressants, antipsychotics, anti-Parkinson's agents)

- Socially disadvantaged (low income, homeless, living alone)
- Newcomers to Canada
- Occupational groups (work outside, increased physical strain)
- The physically active (increased physical strain, reduced perception of risk)

Signs of heat illness may include changes in behaviour, dizziness or fainting, nausea or vomiting,

headache, fast breathing or heartbeat, extreme thirst and decreased urination. Severe signs of illness requiring immediate medical care include a high body temperature, confusion, hallucinations, lack of coordination, seizures, or a loss of consciousness.

For those who work with vulnerable populations, consider sharing the following resources at the beginning of the hot season, and as reminders when heat alerts are called:

- [Long Term Care and Heat](#)
- [Acute Care During Extreme Heat](#) (Symptoms of Heat Illness)
- [Emergency Preparedness](#)
- [Childcare Facilities and Heat](#)

For all Fraser Health Staff:

Please post [**Staying Healthy in the Heat fact sheets where co-workers will see them:**](#) This provides information on 1) Heat illnesses especially heat exhaustion vs. heat stroke; 2) vulnerable populations; 3) Safety tips

Tips:

- Drink plenty of water before you feel thirsty and stay in a cool place.
- Make your home as comfortable as possible:
 - Close blinds and shutters during the daytime and open them at night. Open your windows at night to let in cooler air.
 - If you have air conditioning, use it to take the edge off indoor heat but don't over-cool and remember that circulation of fresh air may reduce COVID-19 risk.
 - If you don't have air-conditioning, take shelter in the coolest room in your home and use a fan. Blowing a fan across a pan of ice water can create a cool breeze.
 - Cool showers and misting yourself and your clothing with cool water will help keep you from overheating
- Check on older family, friends and neighbours; make sure they are staying cool and drinking water

- Schedule outdoor activities during the coolest parts of the day.
- Never leave people or pets inside a parked vehicle.
- Ask a health professional how medications or health conditions can affect your risk in the heat.
- Seek a cool place such as a tree-shaded area, swimming pool, shower or bath, or air-conditioned spot like a public building, but be mindful to avoid crowded spaces and maintain a 2-meter distance from others as much as possible.

Watch for the symptoms of heat illness: dizziness/fainting; nausea/vomiting; rapid breathing and heartbeat; extreme thirst; decreased urination with unusually dark urine.

Get informed

- [Consult the Fraser Health Heat Webpage](#) Check the local news for health and safety updates.
- For more information on heat-related illness, call HealthLinkBC at 811.

Please continue to monitor alerts and forecasts issued by Environment Canada. To report severe weather, send an email to BCstorm@canada.ca or tweet reports using #BCStorm.

[More details on the alert are available here.](#)

The latest status and details on all alerts, including alerts that are not part of your subscription, can be found here: http://www.weather.gc.ca/warnings/index_e.html

Scott Blessin

Manager, HEMBC Fraser Health
Health Emergency Management British Columbia (HEMBC)
Mobile: [s.15\(1\)\(I\)](#)
Email: Scott.Blessin@phsa.ca

After hours HEMBC LM On-Call 1-855-675-2436

<image001.png>

<image002.png>

This e-mail message, including any attachments, is intended only for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and/or confidential. If you are not the intended recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the communication to the intended recipient, please notify us immediately by replying to this message and then delete this message from your system. You are hereby notified that any use, dissemination, distribution and/or reproduction of this message and/or any attachments by unintended recipients is unauthorized and may be unlawful.

From: [Lavery, John \[PHSA\]](#)
To: [Hyland, Ita \[PHSA\]](#); [Hutton, David \[PHSA\]](#)
Subject: RE: WEATHER ALERT: Heat Warning
Date: Friday, June 25, 2021 9:40:55 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
 [image002.png](#)

Maybe Sharon can help?

John Lavery
Executive Director
Health Emergency Management British Columbia (HEMBC)
Provincial Health Services Authority
Cell: [s.15\(1\)\(i\)](#)

From: Hyland, Ita [PHSA] <Ita.Hyland@phsa.ca>
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2021 9:30 AM
To: Lavery, John [PHSA] <john.lavery@phsa.ca>; Hutton, David [PHSA] <david.hutton@phsa.ca>
Subject: RE: WEATHER ALERT: Heat Warning

I see that the content focused on the lower mainland and Fraser Health. I'll make edits to tailor content to PHSA and the whole province.

No word back from Carolina but I will follow up.

Ita

From: Phillips, Mark [VCH]
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2021 9:23 AM
To: Lavery, John [PHSA] <john.lavery@phsa.ca>; Hutton, David [PHSA] <david.hutton@phsa.ca>;
Hyland, Ita [PHSA] <Ita.Hyland@phsa.ca>
Subject: Fwd: WEATHER ALERT: Heat Warning

Fyi.

Mark Phillips
604-816-2284

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Blessin, Scott [PHSA]" <Scott.Blessin@phsa.ca>
Date: Jun. 25, 2021 9:21 a.m.
Subject: WEATHER ALERT: Heat Warning
To: ".FHA Directors Forum" <fhadirforum@fraserhealth.ca>
Cc:
*sent on behalf of Dr. Emily Newhouse, Medical Health Officer for Environmental Health in
Fraser Health & Mark Phillips, Director, HEMBC Lower Mainland*

HEMBC Alert: Environment Canada Weather Warning

5:16 A PDT Friday 25 June 2021

Heat Warning in effect for:

- Fraser Valley - central including Chilliwack
- Fraser Valley - east including Hope
- Fraser Valley - west including Abbotsford
- Metro Vancouver - central including the City of Vancouver Burnaby and New Westminster

Threat:

Fraser Valley: Daytime highs ranging from 32 to 39 degrees celsius combined with overnight lows of 18 to 21 degrees celsius. Humidex values during this period will reach the high 30's to possibly the low 40's.

Metro Vancouver: Daytime highs ranging from 29 to 38 degrees celsius combined with overnight lows of 18 to 21 degrees celsius. Humidex values during this period will reach the high 30's to possibly the low 40's. A dangerous long duration heat wave will affect B.C. beginning today and lasting until at least Wednesday.

Timespan: Today to at least Wednesday.

Find further details here: https://weather.gc.ca/warnings/index_e.html?prov=bc.

Dear Colleagues.

We are set for very hot temperatures in the coming weeks. These high temperatures may result in an increase in heat-related illnesses, require closer monitoring of patient/resident care environments, and require consideration for at-risk populations.

Please circulate the following information to the appropriate staff.

Yours,

Dr. Emily Newhouse, MHO for Environmental Health at Fraser Health Authority

For Home Health, Community Care and MHSU

Some of your clients may be more vulnerable to extreme heat:

- Older adults
- Infants and young children
- People with chronic illnesses (cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, renal disease, psychiatric illness)
- People who are physically impaired (confined to bed, or dependence for assistance with daily living, sensory/cognitive impairment)
- People taking certain medications (antihypertensives, antidepressants, antipsychotics, anti-Parkinson's agents)
- Socially disadvantaged (low income, homeless, living alone)
- Newcomers to Canada

- Occupational groups (work outside, increased physical strain)
- The physically active (increased physical strain, reduced perception of risk)

If you work with vulnerable clients:

- Make sure clients have access to water and cool areas while maintaining physical distancing: where possible pull shades and increase air flow in their area.
- Watch for the symptoms of heat illness: dizziness/fainting; nausea/vomiting; rapid breathing and heartbeat; extreme thirst; decreased urination with unusually dark urine, confusion and/or lack of alertness.
- Be aware that clients on [certain medications](#), including some for mental health, may be at increased risk.
- Advise family to check on vulnerable clients during hot days.
- For MHSU partners and clients who may not have a stable home, please our resource: [Extreme Heat and those experiencing homelessness: a primer for community organizations](#)
- Be aware that some clients may be more prone to suicidal ideation during extreme heat events.

For more information on caring for at risk clients, please see Health Canada resources:

- [Heat-related Death may Occur at Home Alone](#)
- [Emergency Preparedness](#)
- [Extreme Heat Events Guidelines: Technical Guide for Health Care Workers](#)

For Homelessness and Housing Tables

Summer heat can pose serious health risks to people experiencing homelessness or living in precarious housing, especially those with pre-existing heart, lung, or mental health conditions. The good news is there are ways to prevent heat-related illnesses. [FHA has created a resource](#) provides tools and resources related to extreme-heat response for those who work with people experiencing homelessness or in low-income buildings. Please distribute **widely**.

For Long Term Care and Day Programs

Certain members of the community are at higher risk for heat-related illness and death, including:

- Older adults
- Infants and young children
- People with chronic illnesses (cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, renal disease, psychiatric illness)
- People who are physically impaired (confined to bed, or dependence for assistance with daily living, sensory/cognitive impairment)