

COVID-19: Underserved Population Prevention and Response Community Partners and Island Health Linkages

Island Health has a COVID- Underserved Populations Prevention and Response strategy that focuses on supporting the unique aspects of persons experiencing homelessness, unstable temporary housing, or unsafe housing may encounter during this pandemic. The team includes regional leads from Medical Health Officers, Public Health, Mental Health Substance Use along with local experts, and aims to provide prevention, mitigation and response support to localized teams, including you as a community partner.

Key Websites

BC Centre for Disease Control: Everything COVID related in BC <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>

Island Health: Community Partners website, for underserved population <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19/information-community-partners-supporting-underserved-populations-during-covid-19>

Island Health Routine symptom assessment and testing: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19/symptoms-and-testing>

Pandemic Point People

The Island Health region divided into eight community hubs where Community Partnering Agencies who serve persons experiencing homelessness, transitional housing and/or supportive housing link to your local Island Health partner for questions pertaining to COVID-19. The regional contact is also available for broader questions or if the local pandemic point person is not available.

Hours to contact are Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm.

Community Area	Name	Mobile phone	email
Victoria/ South Island	Lorraine Bates	250-619-1929	Barbara.Bates@viha.ca
Cowichan	Rachael Murphy-Boteler	250-710-9600	Rachael.Murphy-Boteler@viha.ca
Nanaimo	Karly Fennell	250-619-9662	Karly.Fennell@viha.ca
Port Alberni/ Oceanside	Jim McCarthy	250-619-8291	James.McCarthy@viha.ca
West Coast	Krys Sciberras	250-619-1753	Krys.Sciberras@viha.ca
Comox Valley	Chris Winkelaar and Chris Goble	250-792-0562 250-897-5373	Chris.Winkelaar@viha.ca Chris.Goble@viha.ca
Campbell River	Tom Thomas	250-898-4011	Thomas.Thomas@viha.ca
Mt. Waddington	Shane Thomas	250-230-0960	Shane.Thomas@viha.ca
Regional Oversight	Megan Klammer	250-580-3548	Megan.Klammer@viha.ca

Environmental Health Officers

The Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) were divided into four regional areas to be the contact person. If there are site specific questions about shelters, shelter safety plans, food safety, water or waste questions, the EHO's have specific expertise. The regional contact is also available for broader questions or if the local pandemic point person is not available.

For Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.

Location	Environmental Health Officer	Phone	Email
Victoria, Saanich, Sooke, Southern Gulf Islands	Angela Wheeler	250-519-3401	Gateway_Office@viha.ca
Cowichan	Heather Hutton	250-737-2010	HPES.Duncan@viha.ca
Nanaimo, Ladysmith, Parksville, Port Alberni, Tofino, Ucluelet	Shaun Malakoe	250-755-6215	HPES.PortAlberni@viha.ca
Comox Valley, Campbell River, Vancouver Island North	Charlene Mackinnon	250-331-8518	HPES.Courtenay@viha.ca
Regional Contact	Jade Yehia	250-514-2957	Jade.Yehia@viha.ca