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Nurses & Nurse Practitioners of BC
Your all-inclusive professional nursing association



NNPBC information re: COVID-19

On March 11, the World Health Organization officially declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. Nursing is at the forefront of public health measures and care for individuals with COVID-19 all over the world.

Nurses continue to demonstrate leadership, commitment to service, and a focus on evidence-informed best practice in an effort to help combat the spread, while also caring for those directly affected by the illness. Moreover, nurses bring an unwavering commitment to our first principle- to provide safe, compassionate and ethical care. We recognize that this is a time of high anxiety for many people in this province and that the public is looking to nursing, as a highly trusted profession, for leadership in interpreting the evolving situation.

NNPBC supports nurses in providing safe, competent, ethical care based on [professional standards and codes of ethics](#) and recognizes that nurses are critical not only in planning and preparing for pandemics but in response and recovery as well.

As the situation with COVID-19 evolves frequently, NNPBC will continue to [update this page](#) and ensure that as BC's professional association representing all of BC's nursing designations, we continue to contribute to the planning of policy and emergency responses during this time. NNPBC appreciates the reasoned, thoughtful and evidence-based approach from the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Officer. We know that nursing is critical in the successful management of, response to and recovery from COVID-19. NNPBC stands behind all nurses whose expertise is essential in keeping people safe and helping them get well.

Key messages:

- NNPBC is closely monitoring the rapidly changing situation around COVID-19 and is in close contact with health authorities, BC Government and BC's Chief Nursing Officers.
- NNPBC encourages everyone to read the ongoing alerts and daily updates provided by the [Provincial Health Officer and the Minister of Health](#).
- Nurses, many of whom work as primary care providers, play an important role in disease surveillance and are a vital resource in helping to understand and control infectious disease.
- Nurses are essential to the management of, response to and recovery from infectious disease.
- NPBC strongly supports 'social distancing' to help reduce the rapid rate of spread of COVID-19 in an effort to 'flatten the curve' and ensure that our healthcare system and providers can continue to provide proper care to those who need it.
- NNPBC supports the WHO recommendations to wash hands regularly and well, cover the mouth and nose when sneezing and coughing.
- Widespread use of masks by the public perpetuates a shortage of access for healthcare providers who rely on the necessary equipment to provide safe and effective care. Therefore, NNPBC strongly encourages nurses and members of the public to stay informed on [when and why to use a mask](#).
- Patients and families, as well as the general public, often turn to nurses as trusted healthcare resources and will rely on nurses as sources of accurate information about the spread of disease.
- NNPBC discourages rumour or speculation as they are potentially damaging. Instead it encourages nurses and other healthcare providers to follow news reports put out by the BC Ministry of Health, the BCCDC, their employers and the WHO.



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- Nurses play an important role in ensuring that elevated anxiety about the COVID-19 does not trigger or perpetuate prejudices that negatively impact specific population subgroups.
- NNPBC encourages all nurses to follow procedures and policies as outlined by the WHO, BCCDC and by their worksite/workplace.

Resources:

Our [COVID-19 web page](#) is updated nearly daily. Please check back often as this situation is constantly evolving and as we continue to add resources.

The following links may be especially helpful:

- [World Health Organization](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Canada](#)
- [BCCNP COVID resources](#)
- [BC Government](#)
- [BC Centres for Disease Control](#)
- [Canadian Nurses Association \(CNA\) information on COVID](#)
 - [CNA - Ethical Nursing Practice During a Pandemic](#)
 - [CNA - Ethics in Practice](#)
- [COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool](#)

Thank you

NNPBC thanks nurses of all designations for your commitment to patients/clients, leadership in times of crisis and your evidence-based knowledge.

