

May 28, 2020 Agenda/Summary Notes

1. Welcome

a. Technical logistics: Skype, www.sli.do.com, Event code: 95638; record future sessions

b. Background Information:

Over the past 3 months, there have been many combinations of groups meeting to help navigate our way during the COVID-19 pandemic, and we thought it might be helpful to provide an opportunity for all post-secondary institutions and health organizations to gather.

The purpose of this 3 meeting series: As we move forward in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we wish to support the planning, coordination and delivery of student practice education experiences through the following objectives:

- To share information in a timely manner;
- To provide opportunity for dialogue, questions and clarifications;
- To identify potential issues or concerns;
- To gather suggestions, ideas, solutions, and improvements.

c. Current status:

- On March 16, 2020, many clinical placements across BC were suspended. Since then, there has been continuous re-evaluation, assessment and prioritization of student practice activities by both post-secondary institutions and health settings.
- Some students were able to stay in their placements, and many disciplines and programs have been returning to clinical placements throughout April and May (e.g. nursing, technologists and technicians, social work, public health); many will be starting in June (e.g. dietitians, respiratory therapists, paramedics); and others will be coming over the summer (eg. Medical undergraduates, physical therapy, occupational therapy, pharmacy).
- Fall placement planning is underway. Key dates are: May 19th: requests released to all destinations; June 30th: response from destinations; July 31st: student assignments from schools.
- There is much work happening to re-design and re-schedule curricula, enhance the use of technology-enabled learning, design alternate learning experiences, find appropriate clinical learning experiences.
- The tremendous innovation, creativity, and collaboration to continue to support the preparation of the health system workforce and maintain student, staff and patient safety is both extraordinary and necessary.

d. On the horizon:

- Adapt our coordination and planning processes to respond to the increased need for innovation and flexibility.
- Exploring the feasibility of a provincial student practice education website, to be a common resource for all.

2. Provincial Updates and Opening Remarks:
 - a. Melanie Nielsen, Director, Health and Medical Education, Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training
 - b. Joanne Maclaren, Executive Director, Nursing Policy Secretariat, Ministry of Health
 - c. Lorrie Cramb, Director, Allied Health Workforce Development, Ministry of Health
3. Question and Answer Session – see summary below.
4. Plan for PSI and HCO Updates next time
5. Needs for June 11th meeting
6. Close

Question & Answer Session (grouped by topic):

PPE

Q: For Post-Secondary programs requiring PPE to offer face to face labs/workshops is there 1 place or company to use? Any feedback/suggestions on this.

A: For Schools that need their own PPE, rather than working individually with a vendor, please access the coordinated supply chain/procurement process for post-secondaries, similar to what exists for health organizations.

Q: Information from our meetings is not making it to the units. We have had instances where the units are not providing PPE to students stating school to provide. Also with FH, some sites are saying they will only accept if the school provides PPE - is the new norm for schools to have to do this?

A: FHA: It is the responsibility of the HA to provide the equipment to students. If there are issues with this arrangement, please contact Professional Practice Office at FHA to help resolve with sites. At FH, we are communicating our responsibility for providing PPE through KYI/Memos and Student Practice Townhalls. If there are any specific sites that are having difficulties with this, please contact student practice team so that we can facilitate a conversation around this.

A: For NH, PPE is centrally ordered by each unit manager and should include the amount needed for students and clinical instructors. Schools are encouraged to touch base with units prior to placements to give this gentle reminder, if needed.

Q: Will there be a standard for which PPE is acceptable to all sites (ex goggles, mask type or brand) for both the HA and their affiliates?

A: The following resources outline the current PPE requirements:

- Ministry of Health: [COVID-19: Emergency Prioritization in a Pandemic Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Allocation Framework](#)

- Ministry of Health: [Policy Communique: Infection Prevention and Control for Novel Coronavirus May 19, 2020](#)
- BC Centre for Disease Control: [Infection Control – Protocols & Guidance](#)

Q: With the recent policy communique regarding N95 use, will Health Authorities still require PSI students to have N95 certification prior to their placements? What about the students who have not had their mask fit?

A: The [communique of May 19th](#), replaces the previous communique of March 20th, and is currently being reviewed for impacts to the existing Practice Education Guideline for Respiratory Protection. (see page 4 for N95)

Orientation

Q: Can the Learning Hub required course "COVID-19 Education" have some sort of completion indication? There is no certificate or completion indicated in history.

A: Vancouver Coastal Health has bundled their resources for COVID-19 into a Learning Hub Course. The certificate of completion is determined in the course or curriculum set-up within Learning Hub. VCH will follow-up with VCC.

Q: Is PHSA requiring students do their 8hr in class PVPC training because the courses are now available on LH. there is limited space for students.

A: PVPC sessions were paused from mid-March to mid-May. They have now resumed with physical distancing measures in place. PHSA is continuing to provide Violence Prevention classroom training to students who will be attending high risk sites. Destinations that are high-risk have contact information to arrange training listed in the destination profiles of HSPnet.

Q: Sites that are supporting allied health students are wondering about Zoom accounts for students who will be delivering virtual visits.

A: This will be explored further at both the organizational and provincial levels, as it is recognized that students may need to participate in virtual health visits during their placements.

Student Assignments to COVID-19 positive or presumptive positive patients

Q: Are programs are restricting students from seeing covid positive and covid presumed wards/patients?

A: There is no overarching provincial directive regarding students being present with COVID-19 positive or presumptive positive patients. Each school and health organization may have a specific approach. This decision is dependent on several factors including the patient census at the site, availability of PPE, the discipline/program of the student and their level of experience, the learning objectives and required competencies for the placement, and should be determined collaboratively on a case-by-case basis.

A: At FH we are not restricting students providing care, but it depends on the context--learning opportunities, availability of resources, health care team decision making etc.

A: NH has some restrictions currently to students in their final placement, but we are reassessing this decision and welcome input from post-secondary institutions. We'll need to have our Emergency Operations Centre to approve the final decision

Planning

Q: For future: If another covid surge, is a coordinated approach to student management possible (eg. when to pull students out of health authority placements)?

A: That will be a focus of planning in the coming weeks, to review what we have learned this spring and optimally prepare ourselves for any future scenarios.

Q&A for June 11th:

- 11 questions remained in the queue.
- The sli.do will remain open over the next two weeks.
- Participants can review the current questions, 'like' a question (those with the most 'likes' move to the top of the queue), or add their question in advance of the next meeting on June 11, 2020.

Links and Resources:

Infection, Prevention and Control and Personal Protective Equipment

- Ministry of Health: [COVID-19: Emergency Prioritization in a Pandemic Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Allocation Framework](#)
- Ministry of Health: [Policy Communique: Infection Prevention and Control for Novel Coronavirus May 19, 2020](#)
- BC Centre for Disease Control: [Infection Control – Protocols & Guidance](#)

Provincial Health Officer Orders

- [Listing of all Provincial Health Orders](#)
- [Long-term Care Facility Staff Assignment Order \(April 15, 2020\)](#)

Provincial Practice Education Guidelines

- <https://hspanada.net/features/>

Each health organization has webpages with specific information, resources and policies on COVID-19, as well as webpages specific for student education, listed below.

COVID Resources by HA	Student Education Resources by HA
First Nations Health Authority	First Nations' Health Authority
Fraser Health Authority	Fraser Health
Interior Health	Interior Health

Island Health	Island Health
Northern Health	Northern Health
Providence Health Care	Providence Health Care
Provincial Health Services Authority	Provincial Health Services Authority
Vancouver Coastal Health	Vancouver Coastal Health

Health Authority Practice Education Committee (HAPEC):

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