

April 27, 2020

Dr. Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard St.
Victoria BC V8W 3C8

BY EMAIL: bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca

Dear Dr. Henry,

Re: COVID 19 Community Testing and Vaccinations Moving Forward

I appreciate that your time is precious and will therefore keep my correspondence brief.

As you and the Minister make plans to move the province out of the constricted phase we have been in for many weeks, to allow greater movement within the community, I know that broader community COVID 19 testing is part of your plan. As you are no doubt aware, pharmacists are being engaged to provide testing at the community level in some jurisdictions.

I wanted you to be aware that BC community pharmacists believe they can fill an important gap in any upcoming community COVID 19 testing across the province. As you know, community pharmacies are located around the province, are highly accessible and are able to respond to the need to broadly reach large numbers of people with public health initiatives, such as vaccinations. Of course, any pharmacy-based testing for COVID 19 testing would require that pharmacists have the appropriate PPE. We would appreciate the opportunity to engage with your staff to pursue this opportunity further.

While a vaccine for the virus is some ways away, I wanted to raise the issue of having pharmacists undertake administering the vaccine either on a clinical trial basis or once a vaccine is more broadly available to the general public. I think there is a unique opportunity for pharmacists to serve the vulnerable patients in long term care and other residential facilities. Again, as your team begins to work towards implementation on this, we would welcome the opportunity to explore further.

Finally, as we look ahead to the fall and regular immunization, we request that you consider making the flu program one that covers all British Columbians. Also, it will be particularly important that PPE be available to pharmacists administering this year's flu vaccine.

On behalf of the BCPhA Board and our members, I want to thank you and Minister Dix for your tireless efforts to keep British Columbians safe.

Sincerely,



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