

ELK VALLEY HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

Regarding the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), BC is unable to screen all symptomatic patients or potential exposures. As per provincial recommendations, IF you have been out of the country (including the United States) in the past 2 weeks, you are advised to self-quarantine at home.

In addition, given community transmission of illness, if you are sick with any type of upper or lower respiratory symptoms, it is recommended you self-isolate at home, for a 14-day period.

Respiratory symptoms include cough, sore throat, and runny nose. Other symptoms may be present including fever, muscle aches, headache, and fatigue.

For advice on management of your symptoms, please refer to the websites below or call the HealthLink (nurses' hotline) at **8-1-1**.

Websites with up-to-date recommendations (links regarding COVID-19 are available from the main pages):

BC Centre for Disease Control: www.bccdc.ca

HealthLink BC: www.healthlinkbc.ca

Health www.interiorhealth.ca

Phone Contacts:

HealthLink BC available 24/7: dial 8-1-1 (for deaf or hard of hearing: 7-1-1)

Elk Valley Hospital: 250-423-4453

Sparwood Health Centre: 250-425-6212

Elkford Health Centre: 250-865-2247

Hospital Emergency Rooms remain open during this time for emergencies. If you feel you need to be seen in the Emergency Room, expect screening questions regarding symptoms and travel history, as well as limited number of visitors.

Our clinics continue to be open with efforts to limit unnecessary visits and consideration of other avenues of consultation at physician discretion (such as phone appointments). Expect non-urgent follow-ups, such as routine screening exams, to be delayed.

Lastly, please be advised that our physicians **will not** be providing patients with sick notes OR return to work notes at this time. IF your employer requires a note, please provide them with a copy of this letter.

Sincerely,

Elk Valley Hospital Physicians