



VARIANCE OF THE PROVINCIAL HEALTH OFFICER

(Pursuant to Sections 39 and 67 *Public Health Act*, S.B.C. 2008)

HCAP PRACTICUMS- VARIANCE OF THE FACILITY STAFF ASSIGNMENT ORDER – May 16, 2021

The *Public Health Act* is at:

<http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/content/complete/statreg/08028/?xsl=/templates/browse.xsl>

(excerpts enclosed)

TO: REGIONAL HEALTH BOARDS

TO: MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS

TO: MEMBERS OF WORKING GROUPS ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO THIS ORDER

TO: LICENSEES OF LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS, BOARDS OF MANAGEMENT OR OPERATORS OF STAND ALONE EXTENDED CARE HOSPITALS DESIGNATED UNDER THE HOSPITAL ACT, REGISTRANTS OF ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCES WHICH PROVIDE REGULAR ASSISTANCE WITH ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING, INCLUDING EATING, MOBILITY, DRESSING, GROOMING, BATHING OR PERSONAL HYGIENE AND OPERATORS OF PROVINCIAL MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO COLLECTIVELY AS “OPERATORS” AND “FACILITIES”)

TO: CONTRACTORS AND SUB-CONTRACTORS WHO PROVIDE STAFFING FOR FACILITIES

TO: EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTED WORKERS (HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO COLLECTIVELY AS “STAFF”) AND VOLUNTEERS AT FACILITIES

TO: EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WHICH ARRANGE PLACEMENTS FOR STUDENTS AT FACILITIES

WHEREAS:

A. In response to the need for more health care assistants in facilities, the Ministry of Health has established the Health Career Access Program (hereinafter referred to as “HCAP”) to provide

Ministry of Health

Office of the
Provincial Health Officer
<http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/pho/>

4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard Street
PO Box 9648 STN PROV GOVT
Victoria BC V8W 9P4
Fax: (250) 952-1570
ProvHlthOffice@gov.bc.ca

a path for persons with no health care experience to receive paid employer sponsored health care assistance training as part of their employment;

- B. HCAP is provided by post-secondary institutions;
- C. HCAP requires that students do practicums in facilities;
- D. Some students enrolled in HCAP work in facilities;
- E. Some faculty members who provide HCAP work in facilities:

In order for an HCAP student to be placed in a facility other than the one in which the student is working for the purpose of a practicum, and for an HCAP faculty member to supervise students doing a practicum in a facility other than the one in which the faculty member is working, it is necessary for me to **VARY** my Order of April 15, 2020 (**WITH RESPECT TO FACILITY STAFF ASSIGNMENT**) **BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS UNDER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

- 4. A post-secondary institution providing HCAP may place a person who is enrolled as a student in HCAP, and who is working in a facility, in one other facility than the one in which the student is working for the purpose of a practicum.
- 5. A person who provides instruction in HCAP, and who is working in a facility, may be present in one other facility than the one in which the person is working for the purpose of overseeing students doing a practicum.
- 6. In the event that a medical health officer declares an outbreak of COVID-19 in a facility in which a student to which section 4 applies is either working or doing a practicum, the student may only continue to work or do a practicum in the facility in which the student is working or doing practicum at the time when the declaration is made, until the medical health officer declares that the outbreak is over.
- 7. In all other respects, I confirm my order of April 15, 2020 (*Facility Staff Assignment*), as amended by my Order of October 26, 2020 (*Deployment and Redeployment of Staff*).

This Order is in effect until rescinded by me.

Pursuant to section 54 (1) (h) of the *Public Health Act*, and in accordance with the emergency powers set out in Part 5 of the *Public Health Act*, I will not be accepting requests for reconsideration of this Order.

You are required under section 42 of the *Public Health Act* to comply with this Order. Failure to comply with this Order is an offence under section 99 (1) (k) of the *Public Health Act*.

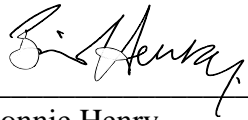
If you fail to comply with this Order, I have the authority to take enforcement action against you under Part 4, Division 6 of the *Public Health Act*.

You may contact me at:

Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer
4th Floor, 1515 Blanshard Street
P O Box 9648 STN PROV GOVT, Victoria BC V8W 9P4
Fax: (250) 952-1570
ProvHlthOffice@gov.bc.ca

DATED THIS: 16th day of May 2021

SIGNED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bonnie Henry", written over a horizontal line.

Bonnie Henry
MD, MPH, FRCPC
Provincial Health Officer

DELIVERY BY posting on the BC Government and the BC Centre for Disease Control websites.

Enclosure: Excerpts of *Public Health Act*

ENCLOSURE

Excerpts of the PUBLIC HEALTH ACT and Industrial Camps Regulation

Definitions

1 In this Act:

"health hazard" means

- (a) a condition, a thing or an activity that
 - (i) endangers, or is likely to endanger, public health, or
 - (ii) interferes, or is likely to interfere, with the suppression of infectious agents or hazardous agents, or
- (b) a prescribed condition, thing or activity, including a prescribed condition, thing or activity that
 - (i) is associated with injury or illness, or
 - (ii) fails to meet a prescribed standard in relation to health, injury or illness;

When orders respecting health hazards and contraventions may be made

- 30** (1) A health officer may issue an order under this Division only if the health officer reasonably believes that
- (a) a health hazard exists,
 - (b) a condition, a thing or an activity presents a significant risk of causing a health hazard,
 - (c) a person has contravened a provision of the Act or a regulation made under it, or
 - (d) a person has contravened a term or condition of a licence or permit held by the person under this Act.
- (2) For greater certainty, subsection (1) (a) to (c) applies even if the person subject to the order is complying with all terms and conditions of a licence, a permit, an approval or another authorization issued under this or any other enactment.

General powers respecting health hazards and contraventions

- 31** (1) If the circumstances described in section 30 [*when orders respecting health hazards and contraventions may be made*] apply, a health officer may order a person to do anything that the health officer reasonably believes is necessary for any of the following purposes:

- (a) to determine whether a health hazard exists;
 - (b) to prevent or stop a health hazard, or mitigate the harm or prevent further harm from a health hazard;
 - (c) to bring the person into compliance with the Act or a regulation made under it;
 - (d) to bring the person into compliance with a term or condition of a licence or permit held by that person under this Act.
- (2) A health officer may issue an order under subsection (1) to any of the following persons:
- (a) a person whose action or omission
 - (i) is causing or has caused a health hazard, or
 - (ii) is not in compliance with the Act or a regulation made under it, or a term or condition of the person's licence or permit;
 - (b) a person who has custody or control of a thing, or control of a condition, that
 - (i) is a health hazard or is causing or has caused a health hazard, or
 - (ii) is not in compliance with the Act or a regulation made under it, or a term or condition of the person's licence or permit;
 - (c) the owner or occupier of a place where
 - (i) a health hazard is located, or
 - (ii) an activity is occurring that is not in compliance with the Act or a regulation made under it, or a term or condition of the licence or permit of the person doing the activity.

Specific powers respecting health hazards and contraventions

- 32** (1) An order may be made under this section only
- (a) if the circumstances described in section 30 [*when orders respecting health hazards and contraventions may be made*] apply, and
 - (b) for the purposes set out in section 31 (1) [*general powers respecting health hazards and contraventions*].
- (2) Without limiting section 31, a health officer may order a person to do one or more of the following:
- (a) have a thing examined, disinfected, decontaminated, altered or destroyed, including
 - (i) by a specified person, or under the supervision or instructions of a specified person,
 - (ii) moving the thing to a specified place, and
 - (iii) taking samples of the thing, or permitting samples of the thing to be taken;
 - (b) in respect of a place,

- (i) leave the place,
 - (ii) not enter the place,
 - (iii) do specific work, including removing or altering things found in the place, and altering or locking the place to restrict or prevent entry to the place,
 - (iv) neither deal with a thing in or on the place nor dispose of a thing from the place, or deal with or dispose of the thing only in accordance with a specified procedure, and
 - (v) if the person has control of the place, assist in evacuating the place or examining persons found in the place, or taking preventive measures in respect of the place or persons found in the place;
- (c) stop operating, or not operate, a thing;
 - (d) keep a thing in a specified place or in accordance with a specified procedure;
 - (e) prevent persons from accessing a thing;
 - (f) not dispose of, alter or destroy a thing, or dispose of, alter or destroy a thing only in accordance with a specified procedure;
 - (g) provide to the health officer or a specified person information, records, samples or other matters relevant to a thing's possible infection with an infectious agent or contamination with a hazardous agent, including information respecting persons who may have been exposed to an infectious agent or hazardous agent by the thing;
 - (h) wear a type of clothing or personal protective equipment, or change, remove or alter clothing or personal protective equipment, to protect the health and safety of persons;
 - (i) use a type of equipment or implement a process, or remove equipment or alter equipment or processes, to protect the health and safety of persons;
 - (j) provide evidence of complying with the order, including
 - (i) getting a certificate of compliance from a medical practitioner, nurse practitioner or specified person, and
 - (ii) providing to a health officer any relevant record;
 - (k) take a prescribed action.
- (3) If a health officer orders a thing to be destroyed, the health officer must give the person having custody or control of the thing reasonable time to request reconsideration and review of the order under sections 43 and 44 unless
- (a) the person consents in writing to the destruction of the thing, or
 - (b) Part 5 [*Emergency Powers*] applies.

Contents of orders

- 39** (3) An order may be made in respect of a class of persons.

Duty to comply with orders

42 (1) A person named or described in an order made under this Part must comply with the order.

(2) Subsection (1) applies regardless of whether the person leaves the geographic area for which the health officer who made the order is designated.

General emergency powers

54 (1) A health officer may, in an emergency, do one or more of the following:

(h) not reconsider an order under section 43 [*reconsideration of orders*], not review an order under section 44 [*review of orders*] or not reassess an order under section 45 [*mandatory reassessment of orders*];

Offences

99 (1) A person who contravenes any of the following provisions commits an offence:

(k) section 42 [*failure to comply with an order of a health officer*], except in respect of an order made under section 29 (2) (e) to (g) [*orders respecting examinations, diagnostic examinations or preventive measures*];