

For Immediate Release | August 16, 2021

### Interior Health wildfire update

IH WIDE – Due to increasing wildfire activity, Interior Health has deployed a number of measures to ensure the safe continuity of care for care home residents, community health clients and acute care patients throughout the region.

Since Friday, Interior Health has proactively relocated long-term care residents from Armstrong, Lillooet, 100 Mile House, Merritt and West Kelowna. In each of these instances, families are being contacted directly and provided details of their loved one’s temporary location, contact information and ongoing care.

“I want to thank our health authority partners throughout the province and each and every person across the Interior region for their commitment and support during these challenging times,” said Interior Health president and CEO, Susan Brown. “We are all in this together. Our collective focus is the safety of care home residents, hospital patients and community health clients entrusted to our care.”

Interior Health is working closely with partners in other health authorities, as many of the impacted long-term care homes are evacuating to care homes in Vancouver Coastal Health, Providence Health and Fraser Health. We appreciate the collaboration and support of all health system partners, local communities and organizations in supporting these moves.

West Kelowna (Mount Law wildfire)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brookhaven long-term care is being proactively relocated to health authorities in the Lower Mainland.</li> <li>• Village at Smith Creek and Lakeview Lodge long-term care homes are being relocated primarily to local sites in the community with some exceptions to health authorities in the Lower Mainland.</li> <li>• The West Kelowna Urgent and Primary Care Centre remains open at this time.</li> </ul>
Merritt (Lytton Creek wildfire)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gillis House, Nicola Meadows and The Florentine care homes are being proactively relocated to sites within IH and health authorities in the Lower Mainland.</li> <li>• The emergency department at the Nicola Valley Hospital &amp; Health Centre remains open at this time. Anyone requiring emergency care should proceed to this hospital as needed.</li> </ul>
Armstrong (White Rock Lake wildfire)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pleasant Valley Manor long-term care has been proactively relocated to health authorities in the Lower Mainland.</li> <li>• The Vernon Jubilee Hospital remains open this time. Anyone requiring emergency care should proceed to this hospital as needed.</li> </ul>
District of 100 Mile House (Flat Lake wildfire)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fischer Place and Mill Site Lodge long-term care homes have been proactively relocated to health authorities in the Lower Mainland.</li> <li>• The 100 Mile District General Hospital emergency department remains open at this time. Anyone requiring emergency care should proceed to this hospital as needed.</li> </ul>
Lillooet (McKay Creek wildfire)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mountainview Lodge long-term care home has been proactively relocated to health authorities in the Lower Mainland.</li> </ul>

INFO BULLETIN

Families are being contacted directly with relocation details. Anyone wishing to confirm their loved one's current location can call: 1.877.442.2001.

We are working closely with municipalities, regional districts, and the BC Wildfire Service to ensure precautions are underway to protect patients, clients and residents.

Those requiring support during this crisis are encouraged to call the BC Crisis Line at 310-6789.

Interior Health also continues to monitor wildfire activity across the region. Wildfire planning includes supporting anyone who may be in isolation due to COVID-19. We will ensure separate arrangements are made for anyone with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 to protect the public from potential exposure.

Everyone is reminded to make preparations for wildfires, and smoky skies as air quality deteriorates by visiting: <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/Emergency/Wildfires/Pages/default.aspx>

Install the BC Wildfire Service mobile app (Android or iOS) or visit the BC Wildfire Service Dashboard to find information on current wildfire activity:  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status>

The FireWork Forecast shows maps of predicted smoke impacts over the next 48 hours:  
<https://weather.gc.ca/firework/>