

# Medical Staff Newsletter

## February 2025

**February 26, 2025**

*Estimated reading time: 5 minutes*

---

**INDEX.** In this issue:

### Updates and Reminders:

1. Review Point-Of-Care Risk Assessments, Vaccine and Immunization Status
2. Reminder: Review Refreshed Medical Staff Rules Before February 28, 2025
3. ICYMI: Applications Open for Health System Redesign Funding

### In the News:

4. Virtual Spiritual Health Support for Patients in Rural & Remote Areas
5. Radiologists Across BC Have a New Standardized Program for Peer Learning Rounds

*\*denotes readers will need to be on-site or access the PHSA network remotely to view these pages.*

---

## Updates and Reminders:

### 1. Review Point Of Care Risk Assessments, Vaccine and Immunization Status

Due to the recently confirmed measles cases in the [Lower Mainland](#), medical staff are encouraged to review point-of-care risk assessments, their immunization status and update their measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccines, if needed.

Measles is a highly contagious airborne disease that can lead to severe health complications, especially in young children and unvaccinated individuals. There is an immediate risk that more cases may emerge in relation to the confirmed cases.

To reduce potential transmission, the following steps are important for patients suspected or confirmed to have measles:

- Implement [airborne precautions](#);

- Have the patient wear a medical mask and [clean their hands](#) when presenting to emergency department or clinic reception areas, and when leaving the patient room;
- Expediate placement into an airborne infection isolation room (i.e., negative pressure room) or a single occupancy room.

#### **Non – Contract Medical Staff**

Non-contract medical staff can review their [PHSA](#) or [BC Emergency Health Services](#) immunization record (when logged into their personal profile on a networked computer) and confirm that they are immune to measles. If your record is missing on your file, it can be updated using the [Vaccination Status Self-Reporting tool](#). If not immune, access to a MMR vaccine is available at your [local pharmacy](#) or through a [health authority clinic](#) in the Lower Mainland.

#### **Contract Medical Staff**

Contract medical staff, without a PHSA-issued ID, can check for their records in [health gateway](#). If you have immunization records that are not in health gateway, you can update your records [online](#). If you need to update your MMR vaccines, you can access it at your [local pharmacy](#). [Health authority clinics](#) will be temporarily offering *only the MMR vaccine* to contract medical staff working at PHSA sites in the Lower Mainland. Please bring your PHN if you access the clinics.

For IPAC guidance please review the recent [PICNet alert](#) and visit the [New Information and Hot Topics](#)\* tab on the IPAC POD page or contact your program's [Infection Prevention & Control contact](#)\*

## **2. Reminder: Review Refreshed Medical Staff Rules Before February 28, 2025.**

A reminder to all medical staff, including physicians, nursepractitioners, midwives, clinical scientists and dentists, to kindly review the recently refreshed draft [Medical Staff Rules](#), which provide important details on the organization of medical staff and the day-to-day processes by which care is delivered.

As these become finalized, we invite you to review the updated Draft Rules and direct any questions or share any significant concerns, inaccuracies, or inconsistencies that may require correction by February 28, 2025. To ensure an efficient process, we kindly ask that feedback is limited to substantial issues rather than minor edits.

[Review the Draft Rules here](#)

Any comments or questions can be directed to [Dr. Tamara Shenkier](#) and/or [Candice Manahan](#) by February 28, 2025.

Thank you for your attention to this important update. Your input is valued!

### 3. ICYMI: Applications Open for Health System Redesign Funding

As noted earlier this month, applications are now open for Health System Redesign funding. Physician collaboration brings diverse clinical insights, enriching discussions and leads to well-rounded solutions. This teamwork strengthens interdisciplinary connections and ensures care stays aligned with best practices and evolving healthcare models.

[Click here for an application form](#)

Applications are due April 4, 2025, however, early applications are encouraged to ensure funding is available. Submissions will be assessed by the executive medical group and successful candidates informed mid-April.

For more information about your application or to inquire about participating in submitted projects, please contact Martina Francisco, lead, Specialist Services & Shared Care Committees, at [martina.francisco@phsa.ca](mailto:martina.francisco@phsa.ca).

---

## In the News:

### 4. Virtual Spiritual Health Support for Patients in Rural & Remote Areas

Weaving Webs of Connection provides vital support to patients with advanced illness and their loved ones across BC and the Yukon, particularly those with limited access to other resources due to living in rural or remote areas, mobility challenges, or travel constraints. This new virtual pilot program provides access to trauma-informed, psychosocial-spiritual support provided by PHSA spiritual health practitioners and is funded by the Ministry of Health in partnership with PHSA.

Spiritual health is an essential part of whole-person care. Patients with advanced illness and their loved ones often experience emotional, existential, and spiritual distress. Weaving Webs of Connection provides confidential support to help them navigate grief, meaning, and complex emotions which can lessen physical suffering and relational difficulty.

Weaving Webs of Connection practitioners collaborate with health and community-based care providers, including Elders, religious and cultural communities, enhancing patient-centered support and ensuring individuals and families feel heard and connected through their journey. The program also intends to support staff and physicians by addressing gaps in care, easing spiritual and moral distress and enabling a more holistic approach.

Sessions are available during the day, as well as some evenings and weekends, in both one-on-one and group formats, accessible by phone or video.

Care providers can make referrals using this intake form.

[Access the form\\*](#)

Self-referrals by patients or their loved ones is also possible. For questions or for more information, please email [virtuallspiritualhealth@phsa.ca](mailto:virtuallspiritualhealth@phsa.ca) or call 778-676-1135.

More details are available on the [Spiritual Care\\* page POD](#)

## 5. Radiologists Across BC Have a New Standardized Program for Peer Learning Rounds

As of February 5, 2025, radiologists across all BC health authorities have a new program for peer learning rounds, formerly known as mortality and morbidity rounds.

Literature has long established that regular participation in peer learning rounds is an indispensable tool for radiologists to maintain quality and safety through shared learning. As a result, participation in peer learning rounds has been instantiated in [radiology privilege renewals](#) since October 2021.

While many practice groups already undertake structured peer learning rounds, the reach and frequency of such rounds has varied. A provincial working group, with support from the BC Medical Quality Initiative (BC MQI), spent two years consulting on existing best practices to develop the new guidelines and standards.

- All radiologists practicing in BC health authorities are both eligible and obliged to participate.
- To get started, radiologists are invited to self-assemble into peer learning groups. See a guide on the program structure, or the full list of regional liaisons at [bcmqi.ca](http://bcmqi.ca/practice-enhancement/radiology-peer-learning-rounds):  
<http://bcmqi.ca/practice-enhancement/radiology-peer-learning-rounds>

Regional liaisons act as a resource for individual radiologist and peer learning round convenors.

PHSA peer learning groups and liaisons are:

- BC Cancer peer learning group. Liaison: Maura Brown [maura.brown@bccancer.bc.ca](mailto:maura.brown@bccancer.bc.ca)
- BC Children's Hospital peer learning group. Liaison: Daniel Rosenbaum [daniel.rosenbaum@cw.bc.ca](mailto:daniel.rosenbaum@cw.bc.ca)
- BC Women's Hospital + Health Centre breast peer learning group. Liaison: Marie-Josée Cloutier, [mariejosee.cloutier@cw.bc.ca](mailto:mariejosee.cloutier@cw.bc.ca)

Feedback and comments are welcome and may be directed to the BC MQI Radiology Quality Lead, Dr. Gerald Legiehn: [gerald.legiehn@bcmqi.ca](mailto:gerald.legiehn@bcmqi.ca)

---

## PHSA Operational & Leaders' News

- Read the latest [PHSA Operational News](#) and [Leaders' News\\*](#):
  - [Dr. Steven Miller, chief of pediatric medicine at BC Children's Hospital, receives Coronation Medal\\*](#)

- [Listening, learning and seeking the truth – watch the webinar recording featuring Joe Gallagher, Kwunuhmen, and his friend John Matterson\\*](#).
- [Join a wellness webinar and wear pink for Pink Shirt Day on Feb. 26](#)
- Unique PHSA stories this week
- Jobs of the week

### Ongoing Resources:

- Check out the [Medical Staff webpages](#) on phsa.ca for information and resources for dentists, midwives, nurse practitioners, clinical scientists and physicians.
- Learn about [health and wellness](#) resources to support you.
- Looking for past issues of the Medical Staff Newsletter? Visit our [Communications page](#).
- Visit [POD](#) for stories about our workforce and supporting resources\*.