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PLEASE POST

COVID – 19 UPDATE 21

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Due to the rapidly changing circumstances surrounding COVID-19 and its impact on workers, program support criteria are subject to change. Be sure to visit www.unifor.org/covid19 to download updated versions of the fact sheets available to our members and their families.

COVID-19 Information & Resources

<https://www.unifor.org/en/take-action/campaigns/covid-19-information-resources?v=custom>

<https://www.unifor.org/en/take-action/campaigns/covid-19-information-resources>



The COVID-19 pandemic has gone on longer than many of us expected, or hoped. The toll on many of us has been great as we were separated from loved ones, and possibly struggled with declining income or added pressures at work.

This page is your guide to the resources and information you need to navigate these times over the long haul - whether that means continuing to rely on government COVID relief programs, work from home, ease your way back into work or your workplace was never shut down.

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This site is divided into several tabs to help you find the information you need:

- Resources, where you will find resources for applying for government aid, webinars and more
- Updates, where you will find press releases, statements, new resources, releases and more, listed in chronological order
- Health & Safety, which includes the resources you need for safely returning to work and ensuring a safe workplace, including mental health supports
- Local Resources, which contains resources for Local union leadership and Health & Safety reps as they work with employers on COVID-19 protocols in their workplaces
- Sector Updates. Each industry has specific needs during the pandemic, and this tab is meant to provide sector-specific information
- Regional Information. The further we get into the pandemic, the more regional differences are emerging in our responses. Find out what the situation is in your province or territory.

One thing we have learned since the pandemic began is that things are constantly changing as we learn more about the virus, so be sure to **check back regularly to this page** as we update the resources under each of the tabs.

If you have any questions that have not been answered on this page, feel free to reach out via the contact information to the right on your screen.

We all look forward to a stronger and healthier future. Until we get there, it is important that we all work to support one another. Be sure, as well, to check out Unifor's campaigns for a stronger future, including:

- [Build Back Better](#)
- [Fair Pay for Health Care workers](#)
- [Fair Pay Forever for Retail workers](#)
- [Reopening Air Travel](#)
- [Hospitality and Gaming](#)
- [Fix Employment Insurance](#)
- [Race-based COVID data](#)
- [Letter to the Prime Minister – Don't reward the use of scabs](#)

<https://www.unifor.org/en/take-action/campaigns/covid-19-information-resources?v=regional-information->

As we move further into the COVID-19 pandemic, provinces, territories and regions across Canada have implemented their own pandemic response plans to address to local needs and to keep their resident safe.

This page is meant to help you find the information you need for your part of Canada, or to help you if you are considering a move to another part of Canada for work or to visit family.

REGIONAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR COVID-19

- [British Columbia Centre for Disease Control](#)

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http://www.bccdc.ca/?utm_campaign=20200311_GCPE_AM_COVID_1_NOTIFICATION_BCGOV_BCGOV_EN_BC_NOTIFICATION

<http://www.bccdc.ca/about/news-stories/stories/2020/b-c-launches-new-mouth-rinse-and-gargle-sample-collection-for-school-aged-children>

B.C. launches new mouth rinse and gargle sample collection for school-aged children

Provincial Lab Medicine Services, the Public Health Lab, BC Children's Hospital and BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) worked together to launch the unique program, the first of its kind in Canada.



The new sample collection will make testing easier for parents and children.

Now most school-aged children who get a COVID-19 test can simply swish, gargle and spit some sterile salt water or saline solution into a tube instead of getting a swab of the nose.

The roll out of the new sample collection, available at collection centres, is a first in Canada. It was developed by lab and medical staff with the Provincial Lab Medicine Services, the Public Health Lab and BC Children's Hospital and will make getting a COVID-19 test easier for children and their parents and caregivers.

“Students are back in class and with respiratory season around the corner, we expect more children will be going for tests in the coming months,” said Dr. David Goldfarb with BC Children's Hospital who led the work to develop the mouth rinse gargle option for COVID-19. “We wanted to find a solution to make sample collection quick and simple so parents and students would feel comfortable coming for a COVID-19 test.”

Mouth rinse and gargle sample collection doesn't require a health care professional to collect a sample –

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most children can do it themselves or with some help from their parent or caregiver. To help children prepare, a new video was created that provides instructions. Younger children should practice the technique at home with water before going for a test.

Parents and families can also take a look at the new [testing information for children and youth](#) on the BCCDC website to learn more about the process, how to prepare, and get test results.

The new program is an important development for B.C.'s back-to-school plan. This year, families and students are asked to do daily health checks and to stay home from school if they have key symptoms of illness. While COVID-19 rarely makes children very sick, the symptoms are similar to other common childhood illnesses like colds or bacterial infections. When a test is required, this new way to collect a sample will make it easier for children and youth.

Province-wide roll out

Mouth rinse and gargle is now available throughout the province at all collection centres.

It was developed by the BCCDC Public Health Laboratory and BC Children's Hospital pathology team based on work done elsewhere to evaluate this method for other respiratory infections.

"We initially looked at this as an option to help ease the pressure on our supply chain to find a steady supply of swab for nasopharyngeal sample collection," said Dr. Linda Hoang with the BCCDC Public Health Lab and one of the medical leads for this initiative. "Mouth rinse and gargle sample collection will be a huge relief for the supply chain."

The team carried out a clinical evaluation at BC Children's Hospital to ensure performance and user acceptability.

"In piloting the program, lab and medical staff heard loud and clear that people preferred this method and children found it fun," said Dr. Goldfarb.

Once the new system was proven to work, a team came together to scale up the program for collection centres province-wide in just a couple of weeks. They sourced and distributed supplies, developed instructions and materials for the collection centres and families, and worked with health authorities and public health to coordinate the launch. They are also working with a local company to design and supply the special collection tube/funnel that children can use.

Once again, I am blown away by the dedication and ability of my colleagues to coordinate a province-wide roll out of such a unique program," said Dr. Blake Gilks, chief lab medical officer for the COVID-19 lab response. "Testing is a key to detecting cases quickly and preventing the spread of COVID-19 in our schools and in our communities."

For students who can't follow the instructions or for children who are too young, they can still get a nasopharyngeal swab. Either test will accurately detect COVID-19. While many adults may prefer the mouth rinse and gargle option too, for now it is only available to school-aged children but the province will examine expanding the program in the future.

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***** REMINDER *****

**Local 114 Virtual Meeting
Saturday December 12th, 2020 starting at 10:00 am**

Main Office Location
First Floor, 325 - 12th Street
New Westminster, BC V3M 4H6
Tel: 604.521.9457
Toll-free: 1.800.841.5917
Fax: 604.521.0419
Fax: 1.877.524.9906



Island Office Location
26 - 780 Kings Road
Victoria, BC V8T 5A2
Tel: 778.765.9857
Toll-free: 1.857.554.6649
Fax: 778.765.9817

GORDON McGRATH
President

BILL GAUCHER
Secretary Treasurer

**PLEASE POST AND DISTRIBUTE
December 12th
Virtual Local 114 Membership Meeting**

Open to all Unifor members, Local 114 Staff and Local 114 Executive members.

Join us for a Virtual Membership Meeting. Hear reports from Local Representatives and Executive members and find out what has been going on in the Local and at our units. There will also be a "Unifor State of the Union Address" from Gavin McGarrigle, Unifor Western Area Director. There will be a draw for a \$100.00 Gift Card.

This meeting will be hosted online through Cisco WebEx, participants will be emailed information on how to join the meeting. You must RSVP.

WHEN

December 12th, 2020 at 10:00am – 12:01pm

CONTACT

Local 114 Support Staff · support114@uniforbclocals.ca

Will you be part of this Virtual Meeting?

If Yes, please fill out and send this information to support114@uniforbclocals.ca

First Name* _____

Last Name* _____

Email* _____

Mobile phone _____

Your Workplace: _____

You must reply before December 4th

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Unifor's website is constantly being updated as new information is provided. Unifor has many websites to direct you to for assistance.

Resources:

Unifor COVID-19 Information and Resources: <https://www.unifor.org/covid19>

Government of Canada Outbreak Update: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

Government of Canada Income Supports for Workers/Individuals:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

Please also check the websites of your respective provinces for any additional provincial supports or resources that may be available to you.

BCCDC website for Health info about COVID-19: www.bccdc.ca

British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) website: <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>

Health Issues: Dial 811 and follow your Provincial Protocols

Mental Health Issues: Dial 211 or access your EAP benefits:

Other useful websites with information

Federal Government Financial Support Resources:

Government of Canada COVID-19 Financial Assistance for Canadians Outside of Canada: <https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-info/financial-assistance/covid-19-financial-help>

Government of Canada Economic Plan & How to Apply for Support: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html>

COVID - 19 Employment and Social Development Canada Information Guide: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

Canada Revenue Agency COVID-19: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/covid-19-employee-info.html>

Provincial Government Financial Support Resources:

BC Preparedness Response: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support>

Income Assistance: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance>

Income Assistance Offices in the Lower Mainland: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance/access-services#lowermainland>

Health & Preparation Resources:

COVID-19: Being prepared: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/being-prepared.html>

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Government of Canada Symptoms & Treatments: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/symptoms.html>

BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment

Tool: <https://covid19.thrive.health/?fbclid=IwAR1NzQXV3eUgFa5bSimQ2wiRpXVVMZc1LPbq5fUNIDFIK1Sc7yjhcc4aB>

Health Link BC & 811: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/services-and-resources/about-8-1-1>

Other Useful Links:

World Health Organization Myth Busters: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>

World Health Organization Public Advice: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

Government of Canada, Community-based Measures: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/public-health-measures-mitigate-covid-19.html>

If you have any questions please contact your Local Union Representative.

Cynthia Anderson anderson@uniforblocals.ca ,

Linda Jensen jensen@uniforblocals.ca ,

Mark Mistic mistic@uniforblocals.ca and

Nathan Shier nate@uniforblocals.ca

New Westminster Office 604.524.9457 1.800.841.5911

Follow phone directory to get to your Local Rep and if not available leave a message you will get a call back.

Employment Insurance questions or EFAP: Barbie Zipp Cell # 1.250.881.3515

zipp.barbie@gmail.com

Gord McGrath President Local 114 mcgrath@uniforblocals.ca

Bill Gaucher Secretary Treasurer Local 114 gaucher@uniforblocals.ca

www.unifor114.com