

Island Health COVID-19 Information

REFERRAL-ONLY COVID-19 ASSESSMENT CLINICS:

- Island Health is developing referral-only COVID-19 assessment clinics throughout the region, including in Nanaimo.
- Family doctors and nurse practitioners can refer appropriate patients to their local assessment clinic.
- People with COVID symptoms may be referred after a virtual assessment by a primary care provider if they require further in-person assessment to guide care.
- The referral-only assessment clinics are for people who have more than mild symptoms, but who are not sick enough to attend the emergency department.
- Island Health is also working with 811 to ensure people without a doctor or nurse practitioner can access this service, if required.

REFERRAL-ONLY COVID-19 TESTING SITES:

- Over the last number of weeks, Island Health opened testing sites throughout the region, including in Nanaimo.
- The testing sites are set up to test Health Care Workers with COVID-19 symptoms. This aligns with BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) current guidelines for testing. The guidelines are:
 - Hospitalized or likely to be hospitalized; (performed in the Emergency Departments);
 - Health Care Workers;
 - Residents in Long-Term Care; or [will be an organized response led by the Medical Health Officer (MHO)];
 - Part of an investigation for a cluster outbreak. (Will be an organized response led by MHO).
- Health Care Workers with symptoms can access testing directly through a booked appointment
- It is important that the public **do not call or attend** either clinic without a referral and an appointment.
- It is also important to understand that in following the BCCDC guidelines; currently the majority of people do not require testing.
- It is important for people to know if they develop symptoms, go to the HealthLink BC website <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/> where information can be found about self-care.
- A self-assessment tool can be found here: <https://bc.thrive.health/>.
- There is also excellent information on the BC Centre for Disease Control website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>
- Information can be found on the Island Health website here: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19> including informative videos by Dr. Richard Stanwick, Chief Medical Health Officer, Island.

Members of the public who have questions about COVID-19 can email info@viha.ca