

Supporting BC's coordinated provincial health research response to COVID-19

Purpose:

- In addressing COVID-19, there are numerous research activities and efforts underway and planned that are led by a range of individuals and organizations, and serving a wide variety of stakeholder groups. While coordinated work has begun in several areas, there is an opportunity to do more, and to create information channels and messaging that helps inform/unite researchers, research initiatives, and decision makers.
- This document serves as a resource to help identify efforts underway and planned, and provide links and messaging to support participating individuals and organizations in communicating their work in the context of a coordinated provincial health research response.
- To successfully support the coordinated provincial health research response, help is needed to populate, use, and share resources, information, and messages.

Why a coordinated response?

- BC's successful response to COVID-19 involves policy approaches anchored in science. A coordinated provincial health research approach involving innovative, cross-disciplinary researchers and teams will produce the science and evidence BC needs to stay healthy, and position our province as a leader in mitigating the effects of the pandemic.
- Coordinating BC's research response to COVID-19 is an opportunity to showcase the link between health research, health, and a strong economy, as well as BC's talent and bench strength in this area. New partnerships and collaborations can redefine the ways in which BC's health research and life sciences sector produce evidence, accelerate innovation, and work effectively with our health system.

How to support:

- Research activities and existing coordination efforts are led by a range of individuals and organizations – and serve as valuable contributions to/components of BC's coordinated research response. Leaders of initiatives are encouraged to review and add to the inventory list (below, and which will be posted to the SRAC website), and further connect themselves to the provincial response through the following means:
 - By using and adding to the [BC Inventory of COVID-19 Research](#)
 - By aligning efforts where appropriate with the [BC COVID-19 Strategic Research Framework](#)

BC COVID-19

STRATEGIC RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- By calling on SRAC to provide advice on research priorities, mechanisms for coordination and other elements of a provincial research response to COVID-19 (Contact via the secretariat at srac@msfhr.org)
- By sharing your work with SRAC (srac@msfhr.org)
- By communicating your work in the context of a coordinated provincial response
 - Example messaging:
 - BC's health research enterprise is working collaboratively to provide a coordinated, strategic, approach to COVID-19 that supports official channels, including Ministry of Health and the Health Emergency Coordination Centre (HECC); other BC government ministries; as well as cross-sectoral decision makers, patients, public and others.

Inventory of Coordinated COVID-19 Research Activities/Initiatives across BC

*Note: list in progress and will be updated

- The BC COVID-19 Strategic Research Advisory Committee
 - [BC COVID-19 Strategic Research Advisory Committee \(SRAC\)](#)
 - [BC COVID-19 Strategic Research Framework](#)
- Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research
 - [MSFHR COVID-19 Research Response Fund](#) (Partnering with [Population Data BC](#) for projects that require data services and [BC Academic Health Science Network](#) for projects that involve patient engagement)
 - Strategic Support to [BC COVID-19 Strategic Research Advisory Committee \(SRAC\)](#)
 - Partnering with [Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#) and other funders on research important to BC
 - Exploring ways to co-fund COVID-19 research important to BC with other funders/partners
- BC Academic Health Science Network
 - [BC Inventory of COVID-19 Research](#) – designed to serve as the single comprehensive inventory of current COVID-19-related studies and trials in BC
 - BC AHSN's [COVID-19 Research Response Page](#)
 - [Voices of Patients and Public](#) – mechanism for input into SRAC
 - [Rapid Ethical Review Process](#) – facilitated by [Research Ethics BC](#)
 - [Clinical Trials BC's COVID-19 Resource Page](#)
 - [BC COVID-19 Clinical Trials Network](#)
- Genome BC
 - [Rapid Response Funding for COVID-19 Research Projects](#)

BC COVID-19

STRATEGIC RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

- Partnering on [Genome Canada's COVID-19 Regional Genomics Initiative](#)
- Partnering on [Genome Canada's Canadian COVID Genomics Network \(CanCOGeN\)](#)
- Exploring ways to co-fund COVID-19 research important to BC, including through its Emerging Issues Fund and its [GeneSolve Program](#) that brings industry and academia together to find solutions to challenges.

BC Ministry of Health

- University of British Columbia
 - [COVID-19 Clinical Research Coordination Initiative \(CRCI\)](#), a province-wide program focused on translational research aimed at capturing and collating collective input and feedback: including:
 - Need for a provincial COVID-19 biobank (in development)
 - Creating partnership with [REACH BC](#) to establish a provincial platform for patient participation in COVID-19 research
 - Maintaining an [inventory of active COVID-19 funding opportunities](#) designed to support researchers and their teams
- BC Health Authorities
 - BC's health authorities are contributing data and clinical research participants to inform provincial analytic and research efforts, as well as conducting their own clinical trials and/or serving as clinical trials sites
- The Health Research Council of BC
 - The Health Research Council of BC, representing the research leaders of BC's health authorities, research-intensive universities, funders and government, is serving as an input/feedback mechanism for SRAC and for communicating initiatives across BC's research community