



**Office of the
Chief Medical
Health Officer**

January 12, 2018

HIV Pre Exposure Prophylaxis Announcement

As of January 1st, 2018, British Columbians at high risk of HIV infection are able to receive pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), at no cost.

Background

- PrEP is a single dose, daily oral antiretroviral medication (generic Truvada).
- Its use is recommended in the prevention of HIV in people at high risk of infection.
- PrEP should be part of a combination prevention strategy that includes behavioural interventions such as condoms, sterile drug use equipment and risk reduction counseling.
- PrEP is being made available through the BC-CfE's HIV Drug Treatment program. Eligible First Nations individuals can continue to access PrEP through Plan W.

What you need to know

- People interested in accessing PrEP are being asked to talk to their primary healthcare provider.
- The BC-CfE website provides all the necessary information for clinicians including Guidelines for the use of PrEP, assessing patient eligibility and information on how to prescribe <http://cfenet.ubc.ca/hiv-pre-exposure-prophylaxis-prep>
- If your patient is eligible, a 'PrEP Enrolment & Prescription Request' form must be completed and faxed to the BC-CfE <http://cfenet.ubc.ca/publications/centre-documents/pre-exposure-prophylaxis-prep-enrolment-prescription-request-form>
- Medications will be sent to the prescriber's office.
- **If you have questions about PrEP eligibility or prescribing, please contact the BC-CfE Drug treatment Program on 604-806-8515.**
- Island Health is continuing to partner with community providers and clinicians to provide education on PrEP prescribing and enhance access for eligible individuals.

The Province has now expanded access to HIV post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to include free coverage for non-occupational exposure. For individuals who are not taking pre-exposure prophylaxis, but who have been involved in a high-risk exposure, immediate access to PEP is currently available through ER departments. Information regarding PEP can be found at <http://www.cfenet.ubc.ca/publications/centre-documents/hiv-post-exposure-prophylaxis-pep-guidelines>

Sincerely,

Richard S. Stanwick, MD MSc FRCPC FAAP
Chief Medical Health Officer

Murray Fyfe, MD MSc FRCPC
Medical Health Officer

NORTH ISLAND

250.331.8591

Charmaine Enns MD MHSc FRCPC
355-11th Street
Courtenay, BC V9N 1S4

CENTRAL ISLAND

250.739.6304

Paul Hasselback MD MSc FRCPC
3rd Floor, 6475 Metral Drive
Nanaimo, BC V9T 2L9

COWICHAN AREA

250.331.8591

Shannon Waters MD MHSc FRCPC
601-222 Cowichan Way
Duncan, BC V9L 6P4

SOUTH ISLAND

250.519.3406

Richard Stanwick, CMHO
MD MSc FRCPC FAAP

Murray Fyfe MD MSc FRCPC

Dee Hoyano MD FRCPC CCFP

430-1900 Richmond Avenue
Victoria, BC V8R 4R2

After Hours On Call

1.800.204.6166