

POSH's Evolving Services

In response to COVID-19 in April 2020, the Physician Occupational Safety and Health (POSH) service was made available to VCH medical staff including physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, and midwives; it has also served other non-medical staff health care workers on several occasions.

And more recently, the reduction in COVID-19 demands has positioned POSH to spend more time on other occupational health concerns of medical staff.

Continuing services

As COVID-19 cases continue to decline across VCH, particularly among our well-vaccinated medical staff, POSH is taking on more occupational health responsibilities to continue to improve services for medical staff – who, as mostly independent contractors, aren't covered by the Provincial Workplace Health Call Centre. Working closely with Public Health, People Safety and Wellness, and Infection Prevention and Control, we continue to support medical staff with:

- Infectious disease contact tracing and exposure management: tuberculosis, invasive group A streptococcal disease (iGAS), meningococcal disease, Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib), Varicella Zoster virus, blood and body fluid exposure management, and etc.
- Workplace accommodation advice, if requested
- Participation in workplace violent incident follow up, as needed
- Respirator fit test tracking and notification
- Vaccine tracking and notifications for COVID-19; likely to be extended to seasonal influenza
- Sharing aggregated data and scientific expertise related to medical staff occupational health

We continue to be staffed by physicians and medical students, with hours adjusted as demands require, but with the ongoing commitment to prompt responses to all concerns.

New name and email address

To better reflect the professionally diverse community it serves, the POSH name is changing to **Medical Practitioners Occupational Safety and Health (mPOSH)** service. mPOSH's new email address will be mPOSH.vch@ubc.ca. Emails sent to the old address will be automatically redirected and addressed without delay.

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns on any of the above or would like to speak with one of our physicians, please contact us at mPOSH.vch@ubc.ca