

POSH: COVID-19 Phase 1 Report
May 31, 2020

Launched on April 1st, POSH began with Vancouver Acute then extended to now include all of VCH, such that there are now **2,956 physicians** listed in our database. These include 1817 from VA, 494 from RH, 896 from Coastal and 450 from Community. POSH also began serving VCH dentists (51) and VCH midwives (37) more recently.

I. **For VCH medical staff:**

- **Monitored occupational exposures** to ascertain needs for PPE, training, fit-testing or other guidance at individual, departmental or regional levels; **830** exposure assessment surveys were submitted of which 56 were high-risk exposures – most from the early days of the pandemic- all of which were followed-up, and none tested positive. In addition, 30 physicians reported being very often exhausted at work; these were followed up to ensure measures were taken to ensure their mental and physical well-being.
- **Reviewed symptom surveys and followed up test results:** **96** physicians chose to use the POSH tool 125 times for symptom recording; 45 of whom went for testing, along with **403** who were testing on their own initiative (unrelated to occupational exposures). All were followed up whether tested or not; **11** of those in the POSH database tested positive, all contacted by POSH to asks about the nature of the exposure if known, the symptoms that ensued, and provide advice regarding the physician’s own health and that of others.
- **Conducted contact tracing** of physicians who were identified as possibly having incurred an unprotected exposure to a COVID+ case. There have been **80** such cases; **74** of whom were followed up in outbreaks.

II. **For all health professionals, whether in POSH database or not:**

POSH **confidentially answered 169** inquiries: **49** related to own symptoms, medical condition, and/or seeking advice regarding return to work (9 unprompted by our follow-up to the symptom survey); **41** related to a physician’s own test results; **26** were regarding N95 respirators, fit-testing, or other aspects of appropriate PPE; and **53** requests for advice regarding exposures they or someone they know incurred, concerns about other staff, infection control measures in their practice, and other miscellaneous concerns.

Six information sheets were produced, related to protection of the healthcare workforce, based on the current international literature; POSH also has attended two sessions of medical staff, invited to bring an occupational health perspective; and

POSH is also working with ES to **monitor trends** on all VCH staff and physicians, to allow greater insight into determinants of COVID-19 disease, and early identification of concerns. We are pleased to report that VCH overall has done very well in protecting healthcare workers; very few VCH physicians tested positive, and, to our knowledge, none were from occupational exposures.