



Humanitarian Emergency Response To Potential Arrival of Migrant Ship

(BCNU, HSA, HEU)



INFORMATION BULLETIN

Part of a series of joint bulletins describing the efforts of VIHA and its health care unions to respond to the current humanitarian emergency.

August 12, 2010

Bulletin #1

To: All Staff

From: Lynn Stevenson, Executive Vice President and Chief Nurse, VIHA
Melanie Leckovic, Vice President, BCNU
Steve Morrall, Regional Director, HEU
Benson Ho, Senior Labour Relations Office, HSA

Re: Humanitarian Emergency Response to Arrival of Migrant Ship

We wish to advise that you may be called in to work as part of our Emergency Response to the above situation. Due to the declared Emergency this call in is mandatory, and you will be compensated in accordance with the terms of your collective agreement.

The arrival of this ship off Vancouver Island has been widely publicized in the media, and the health authority has been asked by federal and provincial authorities to assist in the response effort. As this is a unique, unprecedented situation, it is recognized that the standard of care that may be given to these patients – should emergency and inpatient care for ship's passengers/crew be required – may not meet the standard of care we are accustomed to providing. The Professional Colleges have been contacted and have offered the following advice:

- Professional standards and codes of ethics provide a framework for providing care in these types of circumstances;
- Assess and care the best way possible – you cannot do it all;
- Consider the potential impacts of the refugee and ship experience regarding personal and professional boundaries .

Representatives of VIHA's Professional Practice Office will be present to address any individual concerns.

All staff will be provided with an orientation prior to their shift. This includes safety and security. Staff will also be fit-tested for N95 masks and provided with other protective equipment (eg. scrubs, gloves) to guard against infectious diseases. Public Health officials at the Federal, Provincial and Local level will be providing direction in this regard. Immunization of staff will also take place this afternoon.

Please be aware that this situation, including the health authority's component of the response, falls under federal jurisdiction and will be conducted with strict security and confidentiality measures. Federal and provincial officials will be escorting and guarding these patients. Staff safety is a priority.

We thank you for your cooperation. If you wish to verify this information or you have any concerns when you are called in please contact the appropriate person below:

VIHA – Mary Jackson HSA – Benson Ho HEU – Steve Morrall BCNU – Melanie Leckovic

Any employees wanting to volunteer for 7North should be VIHAStaffingServices@viha.ca