

December 8, 2020

I just received a reply from BC's Ministry of Health Department. I had sent in a question in October for what is basically a FOI - not official though. I just wanted an answer to the simple question of what studies exist that they are basing their health responses on. I got an official reply from Adrian Dix's representative. As you can see they do not give me an answer. All they say is that health experts and evidence exist.

Original submitted question:

I have a very simple question that I can't get answered anywhere by any officials. Simply this: what proof is there that a virus causes COVID-19? What studies or official research has been looked at to determine that a novel virus causes this disease? This has nothing to do with testing and RT-PCR tests. What actual studies have shown a virus causes this disease?

Thanks

Reply:

**HLTH Patient and Client Relations**

**HLTH:EX <hlth.PatientandClientRelations@gov.bc.ca>**

Dec 8, 2020, 2:51 PM

1179748

Dear Sir or Madam:

Thank you for your email of October 22, 2020, regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. I am responding on behalf of the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health and apologize for the delay in communication.

Protecting the health and safety of British Columbians is the top priority of the Ministry of Health (the Ministry). It is important to note, all measures put in place are proportionate with the current level of risk and are backed by health experts and evidence. There is no question the threat of COVID-19 is real, and our objective is to provide the public with the tools and information they need to make informed decisions about their own health and safety. Our rational and targeted approach to public health measures is appropriate and has ensured many of the essential services and activities British Columbians value can continue to operate safely throughout this pandemic.

Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Most people infected with the COVID-19 virus will experience mild to moderate respiratory illness and recover without requiring special treatment. Seniors, and those with underlying medical conditions, are more likely to develop serious illness. The best way to prevent and slow down transmission is to be well informed about the COVID-19 virus, the disease it causes, and how it spreads.

The COVID-19 virus spreads primarily through droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes. You can help keep yourself and your community safe by adopting the same measures used to prevent other common respiratory viruses during winter. These include cleaning your hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rubs, coughing or sneezing into your elbow sleeve, disposing of used tissues in the garbage, avoiding touching your face and eyes, and staying away from others if you are sick yourself.

For more information about COVID-19, I welcome you to visit the World Health Organization (WHO) website at: <https://www.who.int/>. In addition, you may want to visit the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>.

There is no question that what we do today directly influences the well-being of our communities tomorrow, so let us continue to do our part to protect ourselves and each other – each day and every day.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond, and hope you find this information helpful.

Sincerely,

Thomas Guerrero  
Executive Director

*Improvement through every concern.*



Patient and Client Relations  
Corporate Issues and Client Relations  
Ministry of Health