

Applies to:	All referrers to the CVC Wildfire Smoke Inhalation Virtual Monitoring Program
Purpose:	Information about the CVC Wildfire Smoke Inhalation Virtual Monitoring Program

Program Description

The Community Virtual Care program supports vulnerable patients experiencing health effects related to smoke inhalation from seasonal wildfires. Exposure to wildfire smoke can irritate the lungs, cause inflammation, and alter immune function. The program is delivered by Community Health Nurses, who are available 08:00 AM to 20:00 PM, 7 days a week. The nurses will assess clients over the phone 1-2 times per day to monitor their symptoms, and connect them with other services as required and ensuring they seek urgent medical care as required.

Eligibility & Suitability

Clients are eligible for smoke inhalation monitoring if:

1. They are [eligible for Community Health Services](#).
2. They consent to participation in the CVC program.
3. They have the ability to work with a nurse over phone or have local support to assist them.
4. They are experiencing any of the following **mild to moderate symptoms of wildfire smoke inhalation**, including: sore throat, eye irritation, runny nose, productive cough, wheezy breathing, shortness of breath, dizziness and/or headache.

The program is suitable for clients who are immunocompromised or diagnosed with a chronic disease known for poor outcomes when paired with a diagnoses of smoke inhalation, for example (but not limited to): *heart disease, diabetes, lung disease, hypertension, chronic kidney disease, chronic liver disease, or COVID19*. Clients who live in Assisted Living or Independent Living sites are welcome.

Referral Process

Referral sources for Wildfire Smoke Inhalation Monitoring: Primary Care Providers, Community Health Services, and acute care units (via CHS Hospital Liaison or Community Access). Self referrals are accepted. Referrals are through Community Health Services pathways; phone or fax Community Access:

- South Island (250) 388-2273 or toll-free 1 (888) 533-2273
- Central Island (250) 739-5749 or toll-free 1 (877) 734-4101
- North Island (250) 331-8570 or toll-free 1 (866) 928-4988

To refer by fax, please find the applicable referral form [here](#). For more information about the program, please email communityvirtualcare@islandhealth.ca or call 250.519.7700 local 11928.