

memorandum



The following message has been sent to all medical staff on behalf of John Lavery, Executive Director, Health Emergency Management BC

HEMBC to launch new code and new training to support active attacker situations

October 3, 2022

Unfortunately, active attacker threats—when an individual actively engaged in harming, killing or attempting to kill others with a weapon—are a common and increasing occurrence around the world. In health care, the implementation of policies and procedures has now become common practice in many health-care facilities across the country as well as in the United States to better support staff in responding to these events.

[Health Emergency Management BC \(HEMBC\)](#) has worked with the Ministry of Health to develop a new code that provides guidance to facilities and staff in the event of an active attacker situation. Code Silver outlines the principles of run, hide or fight should an individual become actively engaged in harming, killing or attempting to kill others with a weapon. Because active attacker situations evolve quickly—and often before police arrive on scene—it is important to know what to do to protect yourself and your patients, clients and residents.

New training now available

Training is now available for everyone working in acute, community or at corporate sites. The [online module available through Learning Hub](#) only takes 10-15 minutes to complete and can be done at your own pace.

It is important that everyone working in our facilities take the training and be aware of the procedures to follow in the event of an active attacker threat. As a member of the medical staff team, others may look to you for guidance or support in the event of an emergency. Taking the training is a great opportunity to not only enhance your own personal preparedness, but to support those around you should the unthinkable happen.

Over the coming months, Code Silver will be operationalized at each site across the province. Stay tuned for more information.

Learn more

Visit the [Island Health HEMBC page](#) for more information about Code Silver and the training options available.

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