

Patient Handout

Kidney patients travelling on BC Ferries during COVID-19 pandemic

Effective April 14, 2020

Many kidney patients live on and around BC's coast and sometimes need to travel on BC Ferries for their medical care. In compliance with Transport Canada's safety bulletin (SSB No.: 10/2020), BC Ferries announced plans to limit or exclude transit for persons presenting with symptoms of COVID-19 or confirmed COVID-19 infection. We have been in communication with BC Ferries regarding medically necessary travel of patients with kidney or other chronic medical disease who may be sick with symptoms of or confirmed COVID-19 infection.

BC Ferries reassures us that any patient travelling for medical reasons will not be denied boarding. It is important, however, that any patient with worrisome symptoms or confirmed COVID-19 follow these instructions:

- Notify BC Ferries Customer Care Department of their situation **before** travel by calling 1-888-223-3779.
- If not travelling in a private vehicle, discuss alternative arrangements for isolation during the voyage when notifying BC Ferries Customer Care Department.
- Isolate in your vehicle with all others in your party for the duration of the voyage.
- Patient must **wear a mask** for the duration of the voyage.
- If using a Medical Travel Assistance Pass, please make pass visible on the vehicle dash.

While not specifically requested by BC Ferries, it might be helpful to carry a letter provided by your kidney care team documenting your medical need to travel.