



**WE'VE  
LAUNCHED**



[www.reachbc.ca](http://www.reachbc.ca)

## May 2020 Update

### REACH BC launch announcement

We are excited to announce the launch of the [REACH BC Platform](http://www.reachbc.ca), an online platform that connects British Columbians to health research opportunities based on their health interests. If you are a researcher actively recruiting for research participants or patient partners for your research project, we invite you to join REACH BC at <https://www.reachbc.ca/>.

Post your study on REACH BC  
and connect with potential volunteers  
across BC.



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### How does it work?

#### For Researchers

REACH BC is free and easy to use:

1. Sign up for a Researcher account at REACH BC
2. Submit your active research project to the public directory
3. Find volunteers that are matched using the eligibility criteria
4. Follow up with interested volunteers

Researchers sign up for REACH BC and add their active research projects to the directory, then REACH BC's matching algorithm will automatically find any volunteers in our database that match the basic eligibility criteria, and notify them by e-mail. If a volunteer is interested in the opportunity and wants to connect with the research team, REACH BC system will pull the volunteer's contact information into a

list for researchers. REACH BC will allow a faster and more efficient way to find and connect with researchers who are looking for participants or patient partners for their research projects.

### **For patients/public**

Connect in 3 simple steps:

1. Create a REACH BC Volunteer profile with your health research interests.
2. Get matched and notified by e-mail with research opportunities.
3. Review and decide if you want to connect with the research team.

REACH BC is a trusted source for the public to find research opportunities related to their health condition and interests. Your information will only be available to the researcher(s) after you indicate interest in being contacted about a particular study.

#### **Impact of COVID-19**

We have expedited our launch plans with the hope of assisting patients and the public in finding opportunities related to COVID-19 research. We had planned to onboard clinics and research programs at various outpatient centres as REACH BC registration sites, however, we will be postponing until a later date when conditions are safe as recommended by the Public Health Agency of Canada and BC's Ministry of Health.

#### **What's next?**

Over the next two months, we'll be focusing on ramping up REACH BC operations. We're committed to ensuring that REACH BC is working to its full potential, making tweaks and improvements to ensure a seamless user experience. We'll also be working on our communications plan to let people know that REACH BC is ready and available to use with the help of our REACH BC Ambassadors.

If you are a researcher with a health research project that is actively recruiting, visit [REACH BC](#) to sign up! You'll be able to showcase your research and find interested volunteers.

#### **Partner with REACH BC**

We are always looking for groups to champion REACH BC. Your organization can help by creating awareness within your organization through the **REACH BC Ambassador Program**.

For more information about joining the Ambassador Program, please [contact us!](#)



## Thank you to all our partners and stakeholders



On behalf of our project team and leadership, I would like to thank everyone for their contributions and ongoing support which has led to the successful completion of the BC Health Research Connection Project. We could not have launched REACH BC without you:

Project Working Group members  
Patient Advisory Group members  
Registration sites  
Community dialogue attendees  
Carrier Sekani Family Services  
KidsCan Youth Advisory Group

Ktunaxa Nation Elders  
Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute  
BC SUPPORT Unit and Regional Centres  
Population Data BC  
UBC MedIT  
UBC Advanced Research Computing

This will be the last project update regarding the BC Health Research Connection Project. To stay connected with us, sign up for REACH BC at [www.reachbc.ca](http://www.reachbc.ca)!

Project updates and history will continue to be available at the [project webpage](#).

Sincerely,  
Stefanie Cheah, Project Manager  
BC Health Research Connection Project and REACH BC Platform