

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### KGH Foundation Establishes COVID-19 Response Fund to support Kelowna General Hospital & Staff

**KELOWNA, BC, April 3, 2020** – In order to best support the emerging needs of doctors, nurses and staff at Kelowna General Hospital during the COVID-19 crisis, the KGH Foundation has established a way for the public to help.

Over the past several weeks, KGH and other hospitals across the health authority have been challenged to pivot operations in order to prepare for the COVID-19 pandemic. All units at KGH have been impacted. Resources and equipment are being necessarily re-allocated to prepare for COVID-19 patients. At the same time, the KGH Foundation has received numerous requests from the community to help support the hospital.



*Donations of PCR technologies to KGH's Larissa Yarr Medical Microbiology Lab are having a tremendous impact in our local response to COVID-19.*

“The impact of giving to support KGH right now will actually go beyond COVID-19,” says KGH Foundation CEO, Doug Rankmore. “The COVID-19 Response Fund allows us to be responsive and nimble to our hospitals’ areas of greatest need, as they emerge. The fund will also help ensure our doctors, nurses and staff have the resources and equipment they need to deliver the highest quality care to all KGH patients, during and in the after-math of this world-wide pandemic.”

Giving to support the hospital has already proven to be vital to the local COVID-19 response. Two years ago, thanks to the generosity of a gentleman named Colin Pritchard, the microbiology lab at KGH acquired a second set of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

technologies, after the first was gifted by Mr. Pritchard in 2016. These highly advanced diagnostic instruments allow KGH microbiologists to detect and identify viruses faster than ever before.

Dr. Amanda Wilmer is a KGH Medical Microbiologist & Discipline Director for IH Medical Microbiology. She explains, “When we received the PCR technology, we couldn’t have known that we would be facing a global pandemic just a few years later. Without PCR technology at KGH, we would not have any capacity for COVID-19 testing in Interior Health, and would continue to wait for long periods of time for results, which isn’t good for patients or infection control in the hospital.

“There is not a single day that goes by that we in the lab are not grateful for the support of the community. I hope people know it’s making a difference. I hope they know it is saving lives today and will continue to save lives in the future.”

For those wishing to give a gift to support the COVID-19 Response Fund, donations may be made;

Online <http://www.kghfoundation.com/>

or

By mail KGH Foundation  
2268 Pandosy Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y1T2

or

Phone 250-862-4438

For offers of in-kind supplies or service, please email [covid19Donations@interiorhealth.ca](mailto:covid19Donations@interiorhealth.ca).

*Since 1978, the KGH Foundation has worked with a generous community to raise funds to support world-class healthcare close to home for a rapidly expanding and diverse population in the interior of BC. Today, the KGH Foundation is the lead fundraising organization for Kelowna General Hospital and its associated facilities, JoeAnna’s House, and Central Okanagan Hospice House.*

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